

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022

PORTSMOUTH, NH  
TIME: 7:00 PM

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to close the Non-Public Session and seal the minutes, seconded by Councilor Bagley. Motion passed on an 8-0 vote. Councilor Lombardi absent.**

### **III. CALL TO ORDER [7:00 p.m. or thereafter]**

Mayor McEachern called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **IV. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor McEachern, Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilor Tabor, Councilor Denton, Councilor Moreau, Councilor Bagley, Councilor Blalock and Councilor Cook.

Absent: Councilor Lombardi.

### **V. INVOCATION**

Mayor McEachern asked for a moment of silence and remembrance of Kip Newcomb, uncle of Councilor Blalock, who recently passed away.

### **VI. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2022; OCTOBER 3, 2022; & OCTOBER 17, 2022**

***Councilor Tabor moved to approve and accept the minutes of the September 19, 2022; October 3, 2022; and October 17, 2022 City Council meetings, seconded by Councilor Cook. Motion passed.***

### **VIII. RECOGNITIONS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to suspend the rules to bring up Items XIII. A. Presentation – COVID Response Task Force – Recovery Solutions and B. Presentation – PNH400 update. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.**

#### **A. Presentation – COVID Response Task Force – Recovery Solutions**

COVID Response members Lori Waltz and Whitney Brown gave a presentation on the effects of COVID in the categories of Transportation, Mental Health, Workforce Shortage, Childcare, Housing and Substance Misuse by breaking it down with the Problem, Impact on Public Health, potential solution and agencies involved for each category. They concluded the report requesting that the committee be extended by 6 months to:

- Continue meeting to discuss possible solutions
- Work with established grant making organizations
- Hold Public Forums to spread the word
- Provide marketing for these opportunities
- Support the Community Resource Network to make the website more user friendly which will allow community members to connect with local agencies and nonprofits

- Continue public conversations about the areas of need for Portsmouth to build resiliency for our community for the long term

**Councilor Bagley moved to extend the term of the COVID Response Blue Ribbon Committee for 6 months to June 30, 2023. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.**

B. Presentation – PNH400 update

Valerie Rochon, Chair of PNH400 Committee, reviewed the calendar of upcoming activities in celebration of the City's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She stated there are over 100 events planned throughout the year and the list is available on the website. She stated the kickoff event will be on January 6, 2023 (1/6/23) with the lighting of the Memorial Bridge and reception to follow.

**Councilor Blalock moved to suspend the rules to bring up Item 1 under his name on the Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.**

1. Portsmouth Skatepark Fundraising Update and Acknowledgements

Amy-Mae Taylor Court and Rich Duddy of the Skateboard Park Blue Ribbon Committee recognized Sean McDonald and Anna Nuttall both of whom have donated their time and talents to the Skateboard Park fundraising efforts. They also discussed the ongoing fundraising efforts and public outreach to keep the project in the public eye.

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Mayor McEachern opened the Public Comment Session:

Paige Trace – spoke regarding the McIntyre project stating that she had been a member of the McIntyre subcommittee when she was on the Council and feels that the updates being given by the City Manager are minimal and feels that there should be hard questions being asked and answered for the residents that are represented by the City Council.

Roy Helse –spoke regarding electric vehicle charging stations stating that the vehicles owners need to pay for that service and not the city.

Petra Huda – spoke regarding committee membership stating that there are applications on the agenda that are not residents of the city and do not comply with the Articles of Eligibility.

Rick Becksted – spoke regarding the appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment stating that there is an appearance of conflict of interest with the applicant being married to the City Councilor that is the representative to the Planning Board and is why he did not reappoint him when he was the Mayor. He stated that Councilor Moreau should recuse herself from this vote.

Bill Downey – spoke regarding Holiday parking program stating that if it is going to be done it should be done right and program the meters to let people know they don't have to pay.

Ken Goldman (via zoom) – spoke regarding the Neighborhood Parking Program stating that he attended the 11/21/2022 Work Session and was encouraged by the discussion until it changed to the Islington Creek NPP. He stated that he has never seen a groundswell of support for this and has never had a problem parking in the area. He concluded by questioning why Cornwall Street has been added to Councilor Moreau's sample motion.

Barbara Massar – spoke regarding the Arts and non-profits cultural plan subcommittee stating that this is different than a board/commission and is able to cast a wider net for members outside of the City of Portsmouth.

Zelita Morgan – spoke regarding the ZBA appointment stating it is not about the person/persons but about the appearance of a conflict of interest. Next, she discussed the McIntyre issue stating that she is concerned that there are no Councilors involved in the negotiations and feels that there needs to be a public update.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Mayor McEachern closed the Public Comment Session.

## **X. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTE ON ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS**

### **Public Hearings/Second Reading of Ordinances:**

- A. Public Hearing/Second reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 12 and Chapter 15 – City’s Building Code

- **PRESENTATION**

Building Inspector Shanti Wolph gave a brief presentation explaining the City’s building code ordinance was last amended in December of 2019. At that time, the City Council adopted amendments to our building code ordinances (Chapters 12 and 15) to reflect the current version of the State Building Code and to update our local regulations and amendments to those codes. This version consists of 55 pages in two separate Chapters. He continued that the Inspection Department has received complaints from the public that the City’s existing building code ordinances are too long and are not user friendly. When the public cannot find local requirements and Code amendments, the building code ordinance is more difficult to administer. This is caused in part because our current ordinances track and amend different sections of the State Building Code that repeat the same language. In July of 2022, the State of New Hampshire adopted the 2018 version of the International Codes and other national codes (“State Building Code”). The adoption of these new codes create an opportunity for the City to update and revise our existing building code ordinance. This proposed amendment, as presented, removes Chapter 15 in its entirety, resulting in one completely revised building ordinance – a new Chapter 12 consisting of approximately 20 pages. Chapter 12, as rewritten, will be the City Building Code which adopts the current State Building Code as well as our local regulations and amendments to the State Building Code, which are permitted when they are stricter than the State Building Code. The statutes governing local amendments to the State Building Code will be amended as of January 1, 2023. The current statute requires only that local building code ordinances be filed with the State Building Code of Review (“Board”). The amended statute creates a complicated process whereby all local building code amendments must be reviewed by the Board prior to passage in order to verify that the local requirements do not “conflict” with the current State Building Code. There is no definition of “conflict” in the amended statute, thus calling into question the ability of municipalities to make any local regulations and amendments to the State Building Code.

- **CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS**

Councilor Denton and Councilor Cook thanked Mr. Wolph for working with the Sustainability Committee on the Green initiative exemption along with the Assessor.

Councilor Tabor asked about specific requirements in the plumbing code that are specific to Portsmouth.

Building Inspector Wolph stated that it is a rabbit hole when it comes to water temperature requirements and explained the various complexities involved.

Councilor Blalock thanked the Inspectors for their work on this stating that it will help make the City of Portsmouth safer.

Councilor Bagley asked if we are leading the way in streamlining these codes and will there be any problems if we have different versions than other local towns as he is concerned that people will be less likely to work here.

Electrical Inspector John Plourde explained that by July 2023 everyone will have to be aware of the 2023 code version. He stated that there are several small differences with the City of Portsmouth but the State of NH has always been 3 years behind in the adopted versions of National Codes.

Mayor McEachern thanked Mr. Wolph and Mr. Plourde and has been impressed with their ability to get to “yes” with all of the knowledge they have and feels that we are a larger community and it is ok if we have different requirements than smaller towns. He stated he is impressed with the faster pace of the inspections process and feels that streamlining improves the predictability.

Mr. Wolph concluded stating that there are 2 minor corrections to the ordinance document itself but clarified that the legal notice that appeared in the newspaper was correct. He stated under section 1201.1 – RSA 155-A:1, the Roman numeral should be “IV” and not “V” and under Sections 1207.6.1 Section 2 and 1207.6.4 delete 7.6 m.

- **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**

Mayor McEachern read the legal notice and opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak, they Mayor closed the public hearing.

- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS**

**Councilor Moreau move to pass second reading of ordinance including the 2 minor changes presented, and hold third and final reading at the December 14, 2022 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Cook and voted.**

- B. Public Hearing/Second reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 5, Article I – Fire Department, Section 5.101 – Personnel and Article IX – Fire Code

- **PRESENTATION**

Deputy Fire Chief Howe gave a brief explanation of the ordinance update.

- **CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS**

Mayor McEachern asked if something goes to the Technical Advisory Committee can they require additional stipulations.

Deputy Fire Chief Howe stated that the Technical Advisory Committee goes by current codes and if an applicant comes in looking for exceptions they still have to meet the codes.

- **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**

Mayor McEachern read the legal notice and opened the public hearing.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS**

There were no additional Council questions/deliberations.

**Councilor Moreau moved to pass second reading and hold third and reading at the December 14, 2022 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Cook and voted.**

**Third and Final Reading of Ordinances:**

- C. Third and final reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article IV – Commission and Authorities, Section 1.412 – Public Art Review Committee

**Councilor Cook moved to pass third and final reading of the ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.**

- D. Third and final reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article XVII – Funding of Public Art, Section 1.1704 – Exemption and Section 1.1707 – Funding Accepted

**Councilor Cook moved to pass third and final reading of the ordinance as presented. Seconded Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

*Mayor McEachern called a brief recess at 9:05 p.m. and reconvened at 9:15 p.m.*

**XI. CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION**

**A. CITY MANAGER CONARD**

1. Sale of Surplus Equipment

**Councilor Moreau moved to authorize the sale of the surplus equipment as presented. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

2. Release of Funds from the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trust

**Councilor Moreau moved to authorize the release of \$7,500 from the 400th Anniversary Trust to Portsmouth NH 400 Inc. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.**

3. Access Easement for Water Services for 41 Salem Street

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to grant the City Manager the authority to accept the Access Easement for Water Services from Bonza Builders, LLC as presented. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.**

4. Sewer and Driveway Turnaround Easements for Property Located at 77 Meredith Way

**Councilor Moreau moved to authorize the City Manager to grant and record a sewer easement to Randi and Jeff Collins and to accept and record a turnaround easement from Randi and Jeff Collins in substantially similar form to the easement deeds contained in the agenda packet, seconded by Councilor Bagley.**

Councilor Moreau explained that this had been before the Council previously as an un-merger of lots which was not approved but feels this is a better project.

Mayor McEachern explained that this is in the grass area and not the playground/basketball court area. He stated that the trees will be replaced and the Assessor views this as a separate lot.

**Motion voted.**

## **XII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Letter from Jennie Halstead, Executive Director of My Breast Cancer Support, requesting permission to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate Pink 5k Walk & Run on Sunday, September 17, 2023 **(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)**
- B. Letter from Tina Sawtelle, The Music Hall, requesting approval for the closure of Chestnut Street and live music for Live Under the Arch 2023 between Friday, June 30, 2023 and Sunday, September 3, 2023 **(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act to issue license for events)**

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to adopt Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilor Bagley.**

Councilor Denton asked if beer and wine will be allowed as has been in years past.

City Manager Conard stated that will be part of the licensing process.

**Motion voted.**

## **XIII. PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Presentation – COVID Response Task Force – Recovery Solutions **(Previously addressed)**
- B. Presentation – PNH400 update **(Previously addressed)**
- C. Letter from Alissa Gumprecht, Director of Development and Communications for Cross Roads House, requesting permission to place tables in front of North Church in conjunction with vigil being held on December 21, 2022.

Mayor McEachern asked for legal opinion if we allow one group the exception to place tables in front of North Church then we would have to allow all.

City Attorney Morrell stated that the Council can authorize this request but it is up to the governing body to decide if they want to make this exception.

Mayor McEachern stated he would suggest the group reach out to North Church to see if they can set the tables in there. He stated it is a slippery slope and we want to adjudicate fairly.

**Councilor Moreau moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.**

D. Email Correspondence

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to accept and place on file, seconded by Councilor Blalock.**

Councilor Denton commented on an e-mail from Christina Dubin which provides information on Environmental Protection Agency grants that are available.

**Motion passed.**

#### **XIV. MAYOR McEACHERN**

1. Appointments to be considered to the Arts and Nonprofits Committee Cultural Plan Subcommittee:
  - Alan Chace
  - Jeffrey Cooper
  - Ellen Fineberg
  - Gerardo Gonzalez
  - Tom Kaufhold
  - Amanda Kidd-Kestler
  - Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf
  - John Mayer
  - Karen Rosania
  - Emma Stratton
  - Karen Battles (Alternate)
  - Suzanne Danforth (Alternate)
  - Ed Simeone (Alternate)

Mayor McEachern stated that the above listed individuals are to be considered to appointment to the Arts and Nonprofits Cultural Plan Subcommittee. He further explained that they are not all Portsmouth residents which because it is a sub-committee of a Blue Ribbon Committee, it is not required. He thanked everyone for applying as this plan has not been reviewed for 20 years.

The applications will be voted at the December 14, 2023 Council meeting.

2. Appointment to be Voted:
  - Appointment of David Rheume to the Zoning Board of Adjustment



**Councilor Tabor moved to appoint David Rheume to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.**

Councilor Moreau stated she will recuse herself from this vote.

Mayor McEachern stated he feels that making these appointments is difficult via this process and to not make it seem political. He stated he looks at the capability, integrity and willingness to serve of the applicant and especially for this board which is a 5 year term. He continued that David Rheume meets all of these requirements and is confident he can do the job even being married to Councilor Moreau. He further stated that he had gone to a ZBA meeting in the past on behalf of a neighbor and Mr. Rheume was the Chair of the Board at that time. He stated he was impressed by his running of the meeting and felt it was handled fairly, etc. He stated it is unfair to not appoint him because of who he is married to and he feels confident in this appointment.

**Motion passed on a 7-0 vote. Councilor Moreau recused.**

**XV. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**A. COUNCILOR DENTON**

1. Approval of 2023 City Council May Budget Meeting Schedule

Councilor Denton stated that he wants to consolidate the 4 separate budget sessions in May into a one-day session in order to stream-line the process and have it be a more efficient use of time. He stated he is suggesting May 15, 2023.

Councilor Bagley agrees with the one day session but would want a public comment session later in the day.

Mayor McEachern stated that there will be public comment and public hearings throughout the budget process.

Councilor Tabor stated he appreciates the desire to streamline the process but feels there is value in having 1 session for each department so that they can study the budget and form their questions and hear presentations when they are fresh. He stated he feels it also shows respect for the department heads to have their opportunity to present and answer questions and have time to do so.

Councilor Blalock stated he would also prefer a one-day session.

Assistant Mayor Kelley stated she is also concerned with condensing everything into one day and would prefer 2 sessions. She agrees that having 4 separate sessions is difficult for the public to come to each meeting or even to watch all of the sessions on-line.

Mayor McEachern stated that this is the second budget process for this Council so we are more familiar with the staff and the interdependencies etc. of the budget. He stated he agrees that it can be difficult to do 4 separate sessions and would agree that 2 Monday meetings would be good.

Councilor Bagley asked the City Manager what she feels would be the most efficient way to proceed.



City Manager Conard stated she and the staff will do whatever the Council wishes but that it needs to be after the May 8<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing.

**Councilor Bagley moved to schedule a full day department budget presentations work session during the day on Monday, May 15, 2023, seconded by Councilor Denton. Motion passed on a on a 5-3 roll call vote. Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilors Tabor and Cook voted opposed.**

## **B. COUNCILOR MOREAU**

1. ***Sample Motion - to extend the Neighborhood Pilot Program through June 30, 2023, for the purposes of developing, adopting and implementing ordinance changes to create a neighborhood parking program for downtown adjacent areas. This effort would specifically include the development of a program for the neighborhood from Cornwall to Bridge Street which is currently in the pilot program.***

The ordinance could also establish a process for consideration of other neighborhoods adjacent to the downtown. For example, the ordinance could describe a petition process by which neighborhoods could petition for consideration for a neighborhood parking program with a referral to the Parking and Traffic and Safety Committee for consideration and recommendation if a certain threshold of interest was met. Alternatively, the City Council could accomplish this process through a City Council policy. There is an assumption that other neighborhoods may be interested in a parking program.

Councilor Moreau stated she appreciates all of the thoughts that were expressed at the Work Session and now we need to decide how to move forward without having all of the information that will come from the Parking Study.

**Councilor Moreau moved to extend the Neighborhood Pilot Program through June 30, 2023, for the purposes of developing, adopting and implementing ordinance changes to create a neighborhood parking program for downtown adjacent areas. This effort would specifically include the development of a program for the neighborhood from Cornwall to Bridge Street which is currently in the pilot program, seconded by Councilor Denton.**

Assistant Mayor Kelley stated she is hesitant to continue the pilot as it is now and doesn't feel that Cornwall needs to be included and would like more information from the parking staff. She stated she would like a report back and to launch a survey to the small residential area in whether to continue the program and the cost.

Councilor Bagley stated he agrees with Assistant Mayor Kelley's points but feels there are some good things in the motion. He feels that we could end the program now and go forward with a more focused area.

Councilor Blalock stated he understands the problems that have occurred but feels we have already spent a lot of money on the program and feels that it should be stopped at this point.

Councilor Cook stated she is concerned with the cost of removing the signs and then putting them back up again if it stops and then starts again. City Manager Conard stated she would need to report back. Councilor Tabor spoke to the motion stating we don't know how many people will pay for this and the taxpayers have been paying for it so far. He continued that if the neighborhoods want this program restarted then they should pay for it, but the last survey indicated that only 34% are willing to pay for

permits. He continued that we need to figure out the boundaries and if there is support but to extend it for free, then we should not continue it.

Councilor Bagley asked if we end the program now can the signs be left up without enforcement. City Manager Conard stated that would create a mixed message and confusion but will consult staff.

Mayor McEachern passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Mayor McEachern stated we do not need to extend the pilot program. He continued that this was brought forward by the business owners and feels this is better handled through the ordinance process. He stated that neighborhoods can request a street be metered and then resident vehicles can be registered in the system by license plate for a set fee. He stated that would show that there is a buy-in from the residents. He stated streets can be added after going through the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading process of an ordinance and would include a public hearing.

Councilor Moreau stated that this was discussed but since the parking study has not been completed and presented yet, it may require the ordinance to be changed again.

Discussion ensued regarding the process and whether it could go before the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee and have the streets passed on a temporary basis via acceptance of the minutes as is done for other parking/traffic issues.

Deputy City Manager/Deputy City Attorney Woodland stated she feels it would be better addressed through an ordinance process and that the Council could set a policy to guide the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee to bring forward streets.

Councilor Bagley agrees with Deputy City Manager/Deputy City Attorney Woodland that it is unfair to task the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee to make those determinations unless there is a Council policy to help streamline the process.

Councilor Moreau stated the discussion came down to ordinance versus policy as the ordinance process is a larger process and a permit policy would be more flexible.

**Motion failed on a 1-7 roll call vote. Councilor Moreau voted in favor.**

### **C. COUNCILOR BAGLEY**

1. Parking and Traffic Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the October 6, 2022 meeting (*Tabled at the November 14, 2022 City Council meeting*)

**Councilor Bagley moved to approve and accept the action sheet and minutes of the October 6, 2022 Parking and Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

2. Parking and Traffic Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the November 3, 2022 meeting

**Councilor Bagley moved to approve and accept the action sheet and minutes of the November 3, 2022 Parking and Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

3. Free On-street parking for up to Three Hours from Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> through Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> in Celebration of the Holiday Season. We hope residents and visitors will take advantage of this and support Portsmouth's wonderful, local small businesses, restaurants and non-profits.

**Councilor Bagley moved to authorize Free On-street parking for up to Three Hours from Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> through Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> in Celebration of the Holiday Season, seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.**

Assistant Mayor Kelley thanked Councilor Bagley for bringing this forward. She continued that as a small business owner it is vital to bring people downtown and rewards residents for visiting the businesses.

Councilor Tabor clarified that the 3-hour limit will be enforced.

Councilor Moreau stated that she is concerned with the loss of revenue during this time.

Councilor Bagley stated research shows it is better for the economic climate, it is a tradition and it is good for morale.

Councilor Cook stated she will support this but feels we should think about an education program for residents and business owners as to how parking enforcement helps turnover. She suggested an alternative to this is to have free parking in the garages with shuttles.

Mayor McEachern stated we do lose revenue and we may also lose turnover but feels that there is a feeling of gratitude and holiday spirit for the patrons and businesses. He agrees we can look at other ideas in the future.

**Motion passed on a 7-1 vote. Councilor Moreau voted opposed.**

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to suspend the rules to allow meeting to go past 10:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Cook and voted.**

#### **D. COUNCILOR BLALOCK**

1. Portsmouth Skatepark Fundraising Update and Acknowledgements  
*(Previously acted upon)*

#### **XVI. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS**

- A. Donation to the Cemetery Committee from Kerry and Peter Rubenstein for Cemetery Projects - \$2,001.38

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve and accept the donation from Kerry and Peter Rubenstein for Cemetery Projects - \$2,001.38. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.**

## **XVII. CITY MANAGER'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### 1. McIntyre Update

City Manager Conard stated that shortly before the meeting, a memo and final design plan were posted on the website.

City Attorney Morrell gave a brief review of the memorandum explaining that we currently remain in negotiations and have recently contracted a financial consultant to review the pro forma and cost estimates which are anticipated to be finalized in 3 months. She stated we also have a final design of the community plan being submitted with National Park Service for initial approval but clarified that the GSA will not give us an extension if NPS doesn't like the design. She stated that there will be continued significant discussions with SoBo and under the settlement agreement we are obligated to split the cost of expenses which will require a request for a supplemental appropriation.

City Manager Conard stated that we will be coming back with a supplemental appropriation request for \$150,000.00 to continue the process for the next 3 months.

Mayor McEachern stated that people have asked about the process being public and explained that we haven't had anything come forward that has been approved to bring to the public as of yet.

### 2. Report Back on Funding for Greater Portsmouth Recovery Ready Community Coalition

Councilor Denton requested that no action be taken on this item at this time as we have just extended the COVID committee by 6 months and feels we should wait.

Councilor Cook stated that there is a deadline to receive matching funds.

Councilor Bagley stated he supports Councilor Denton's suggestion to wait as this is a big ask and this is a group from Eliot, Maine and there are other local groups.

City Manager Conard referred to the presentation given at the November 14, 2022 Council meeting which outlined the request and clarified that they have established a local LLC.

**Councilor Tabor moved to release \$60,000 in FY22 surplus Welfare funding to the Greater Portsmouth Recovery Ready Community Coalition, seconded by Councilor Cook.**

Discussion ensued.

Assistant Mayor Kelley asked if we have gotten an opinion from Welfare Director Tully as to whether there are other ways to use this surplus.

City Manager Conard stated she has spoken with Welfare Director Tully who feels that because it helps find housing for people, it does seem appropriate.

Councilor Denton stated he had originally thought this was ARPA funding but it has been clarified that it is not.

**Motion passed 7-1, Councilor Bagley voted opposed.**

3. Report Back on Outdoor Dining

City Manager Conard stated she will bring this item back for a presentation at the December 14, 2022 meeting.

Councilor Tabor stated he looks forward to the discussion and would like a traffic count on the streets that force 1-way traffic.

City Manager Conard stated we also did a survey of the abutters.

**XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCLUDING BUSINESS REMAINING UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mayor McEachern thanked the Police, Fire and Recreation Departments for their work on and during the Holiday Parade.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT [at 10:30 p.m. or earlier]**

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to adjourn at 11:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.**

Respectfully submitted:

Valerie A. French  
Deputy City Clerk