

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023

PORTSMOUTH, NH

TIME: 7:00 PM

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to close the Non-Public Session and seal the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.**

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

Mayor McEachern called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

### **IV. ROLL CALL**

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

### **V. INVOCATION**

Mayor McEachern asked for a moment of silence for City Clerk Barnaby in remembrance of her brother who recently passed.

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

Mayor McEachern led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

There are no minutes on for acceptance this evening.

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

None

### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

Ross Loranza – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating that it has been a critical experience of his time in Portsmouth and feels it is especially nice for residents with pets.

Kevin Dwyer – owner of Dwyer’s Pub and lifelong resident - asked that outdoor dining be continued and that the prices remain the same and capped. He stated that charging by square footage adds expense and understands that parking revenue is being lost, but it is being made up elsewhere.

Peter Masci – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating that as a chef at Dwyer’s Pub, he feels it has helped the business and others during the summer months.

Sean O’Doherty – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating he feels it keeps Portsmouth vibrant and walkable.

David Hanson – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating that as a general manager of a restaurant he feels that this has opened up a lot of opportunities for locals and tourists. He stated it needs to be kept affordable for the restaurants.

Paige Trace – spoke regarding outdoor dining stating that people aren’t against it but the policy and process needs to be transparent. She stated that businesses should not be making their business plans around property that isn’t theirs.

Liza Hewitt – stated that outdoor dining began because of COVID19 but feels that in 2023 it should be equitable, fair and impartial but this proposed policy is not. She stated that this benefits a select few restaurants and feels it should include other types of businesses as well. She further discussed the use of parking spaces and changing traffic flow and feels that spot zoning is occurring. She spoke regarding the raise in the fees and feels that Councilors Cook and Bagley are not listening to the staff and residents.

Esther Kennedy – stated she agrees with the previous speaker and is concerned that this went to the fees committee but no vote was taken. She stated that this proposal was also buried in the Council packet and abutters weren't aware that this was on the agenda. She stated that other small businesses that aren't restaurants are losing parking and feels there is no equity in this policy. She commended Councilor Moreau for wanting to notify abutters and feels that Councilor Bagley invited his friends to speak tonight but others weren't notified.

Petra Huda – stated she is in favor of outdoor dining but is concerned that the fees committee did not vote on a recommendation for the policy being brought forward. She cited an article in the Portsmouth Herald which stated that restaurants have recovered to pre-pandemic levels but we are still giving a discount which is not fair to all other restaurants and businesses. She stated that it is up to the individual businesses to decide if they want to participate and residents shouldn't be picking up the tab.

Mark Brighton – spoke regarding conflict of interest and that it used to be that if there was a perception of a conflict, then Councilors would recuse themselves but feels that is no longer the case.

Rob Capone, Chair of Cable and Broadband Internet Commission – spoke regarding the ordinance to update the scope of the Cable Commission and being able to advocate on behalf of Portsmouth residents as well as updating the cable licensing agreement.

Ian Troost (via zoom) – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating that he has witnesses a lot of growth in the city over the last 10 years and feels that removing outdoor dining would be a bad idea. He stated that outdoor dining makes Portsmouth more walkable and the loss of the parking spaces will push people to the parking garages. He stated that he would like to see year-round outdoor dining and feels that increasing fees will affect the smaller restaurants and therefore affect its employees.

Mike O'Hara (via zoom) – spoke on a variety of issues of concern.

Al Fleury, owner of the Goat Restaurant – spoke regarding the positive affect that outdoor dining has had on his business and on the city as a whole. He presented letters from abutters of his business that support his continued outdoor dining and stated he is willing to pay for the space accordingly. He stated that this positively impacts his staff as well.

Peter Harris – stated he supports the outdoor dining but feels all businesses should be a part of the discussion and feels that if it was the other way around, it would be a different discussion. He stated that Pleasant Street is a frequently used roadway and shouldn't be closed.

Alex Choquette – stated he supports outdoor dining which he and his family and friends utilize frequently.

**Councilor Denton moved to suspend the rules to move up Agenda Items XV.B.1 Report Back on Fees Committee and Councilor Cook and Bagley Items XV.D.1 and D.2, seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.**

## **B. COUNCILOR TABOR AND COUNCILOR DENTON**

### 1. Report Back on Fee Committee

Councilor Tabor stated that the committee reviewed the outdoor dining issues and agreed upon outdoor dining being a beneficial use of public sidewalks but there was not a consensus regarding lane closures or fees.

Councilor Denton clarified that there is not a recommendation from the Fees Committee as there was not a consensus.

Mayor McEachern suggested that it may be a good idea to add a third Councilor to the Fees Committee.

## **D. COUNCILOR COOK AND COUNCILOR BAGLEY**

### 1. **Councilor Cook moved to include the downtown area bounded by Deer Street, the Piscataqua River, Prescott Park, Court Street, and Maplewood Avenue/Middle Street in the redesign of Market Square in 2023 with the goal of enhanced pedestrian access with expanded sidewalks, expanded sidewalk dining throughout downtown and reduce traffic congestion, including possible redesign of traffic flow (two-way traffic) on State Street, seconded by Councilor Bagley.**

Councilor Cook stated that part of the discussion regarding outdoor dining has included the walkability of the downtown area and now it is more of a destination than a through-way. She continued that the Market Square redesign was postponed due to COVID and now that it is coming forward again, it should be expanded to included surrounding streets.

Councilor Blalock stated that the study was also delayed to wait until after the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary and agrees that it should be more pedestrian friendly. He stated he is concerned that this will be trying to do too many things and will cost the taxpayers.

Councilor Lombardi stated the he and Assistant Mayor Kelley have brought this to the Economic Development Commission to look at this from the small business point of view.

Councilor Bagley stated that the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee reviewed Fleet/State Street redevelopment which is a few years away but feels that it does make sense to include Congress Street in the design package.

Assistant Mayor Kelley asked if we have already done a study of the 2-way conversion on State Street and when will it be available.

City Manager Conard stated that we have done a preliminary study and we are waiting for the results but clarified that this would be a larger scope than what is currently included in the CIP and is more of a downtown master plan.

Councilor Denton stated he supports exploring the possibilities and maybe closing traffic during certain times of days etc. He would like to know how much it would cost to expand the scope as he would be willing to spend the money on the study.

Councilor Moreau stated she originally requested the 2-way State Street study as a first step and once it is done we can look at Market, Congress etc. to have a more multi-use space.

Mayor McEachern stated he agrees that this seems more appropriate as a master plan and asked why this has grown.

Councilor Cook stated it made sense to encompass all streets travelled to reach Market Square because if we make a decision on one street it will affect another, etc.

Mayor McEachern stated we are talking about this because it affects the outdoor dining issue as well.

Councilor Tabor stated every time we expand pedestrian/sidewalk areas it is a win/win but feels that this is too much for one study and suggested separating pedestrian friendly areas and then see what space is available and discuss traffic flow.

**Councilor Tabor added a friendly amendment to the aforementioned motion to expand the Market Square Study to include Congress, Pleasant, Market and Daniel Streets and to have a report back on the cost estimate of the impact of the additions to the study in the Capital Improvements Plan prior to the February 6, 2023 City Council meeting. Voted to adopt motion to include friendly amendment as presented.**

**2. Councilor Bagley moved to adopt the attached proposed policy on outdoor dining, seconded by Councilor Cook.**

Councilor Bagley stated that the Council received over 200 e-mails in support of continuing outdoor dining with 140 being Portsmouth residents. He explained this started in response to COVID restrictions with Bob White conducting a study and has been successful for several seasons. He stated he feels the policy should be adopted this evening for the 2023 season and bring back an ordinance later this summer.

Councilor Cook stated that this is being brought forward to strike a balance and continue the current process and to include some, not all, of the recommendations from the Planning staff. She continued that this was a compromise to see what we want it to look like in the future. She stated it also keeps the fee at \$1,500 and \$5.00 a square foot to allow restaurants to afford the changes required to make it more accessible to everyone.

Assistant Mayor Kelley asked City Attorney Morrell if, as a coffee shop owner who utilizes the sidewalk obstruction policy to have tables and chairs, she is able to vote on this or not.

City Attorney Morrell stated if this affected her income directly, yes, but she doesn't feel it is a conflict.

Assistant Mayor Kelley stated she had requested that this program be opened up to retailers as well and read some letters from downtown retailers in support. She continued that it is important to remember that we have had the policy in place for many years, but this is expanding it to parking spaces and traffic lanes and expands walkability. She stated that we shouldn't place parking over what the residents want and believes that parking revenues are actually up.

**Councilor Denton moved to delete the first sentence of paragraph 4 and re-establish the diagonal cross-walk at the Congress/Middle Street intersection, seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.**

Public Works Director Rice explained that this intersection is safer the way it is currently designed. He stated that there is a perception issue that the diagonal crosswalk was less dangerous, but it is not the case and it is just a change that people don't like.

Mayor McEachern recalled an instance he had requested a lighted crosswalk without going through the set process which he now regrets. He suggested that the arrow be moved closer so that cars are more aware.

*Councilor Denton withdrew the request to change the crosswalk intersection, Assistant Mayor Kelley agreed as the seconder of the motion.*

Mayor McEachern stated he feels the 1000 cars threshold is an arbitrary number.

Councilor Bagley addressed the intersection issue stating that this will be on the next Parking and Traffic Safety Committee agenda in regards to pedestrian interval/traffic intervals and what is more safe statistically.

Councilor Cook addressed the 1000 car limit stating that this was a recommendation of the Planning Director because of concerns of traffic flow, especially at Pleasant Street and Fleet Street. She stated there was not the same response to Congress Street because it did not change the direction of traffic.

City Manager Conard stated she is standing with the staff recommendation that the only use for travel lanes is for vehicular traffic. She stated that if any of these requests come to her for approval, she will say no.

Councilor Blalock stated he supports the staff recommendation on the travel lanes. He stated that most people support Hill and Congress but not Pleasant and Fleet.

Discussion ensued as to whether the City Manager should have the final approval or if it should come back to the City Council.

Councilor Denton stated that paragraph 4 could be eliminated altogether.

Mayor McEachern stated that the City Manager is not afraid to make the decision, she is saying it is a bad idea to use travel lanes.

City Manager Conard stated that it would be unwieldy to have to have a public hearing every time we get a request.

Councilor Bagley suggested rescinding Councilor Denton's motion to amend and allow on-street dining for all that have had it previously, and if not, then Congress Street only.

*Councilor Denton rescinded his original motion to amend, Assistant Mayor Kelley as the seconder agrees.*

**Councilor Denton moved to amend Policy Item 4, Sentence 1, to replace the word "impedes" with "reverses", seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley. Motion passed on a 9-0 roll call vote.**

Councilor Moreau discussed the fees portion of the policy stating she was opposed to keeping them the same but is fine with keeping them the same now with re-evaluation when the time comes.

Councilor Tabor asked about the Café' Policy that has been in place since 2012 and if this will replace that policy.

Deputy City Manager/Attorney Woodland explained that there is a potential conflict with other policies currently in place with the exception of the Sidewalk Obstruction policy.

Discussion ensued regarding the fee structure and policy discrepancies.

**Councilor Bagley moved to adjust the outdoor dining season dates to May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 9<sup>th</sup> (Indigenous People's Day), seconded by Councilor Blalock.**

Councilor Morrell suggested that due to there being so many conflicts in the fee structure, dates, etc. there could be a report back to clarify.

*Councilor Bagley withdrew motion to amend, Councilor Blalock as seconder agreed.*

Councilor Moreau to remove Policy Item 1 in its entirety and to bring it back to the Council as a separate item. **Voted on an 8-1 vote** Councilor Cook voted opposed.

**Voted on a 9-0 roll call to adopt** the proposed policy on outdoor dining as amended.

Mayor McEachern called a brief recess at 9:35 p.m.  
Meeting reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

**Councilor Denton moved to suspend the rules to move up City Manager Agenda Item XI.A.2. Seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.**

2. Approval of Proposed MOA for Portsmouth School District Para-educators and Portsmouth Police Civilian Employees Association

**Councilor Denton moved to approve the proposed agreement as presented. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

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

### **First Reading of Ordinance:**

- A. First reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article XVII, Section 1.1705 – Public Arts Funds

**Councilor Lombardi moved to pass first reading and schedule a second reading and Public Hearing at the February 6, 2023 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.**

### **Public Hearing/Second Reading of Ordinance:**

- A. Second reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article IVA, Section 7A.408 – Taxi Stands Designated

- **PRESENTATION**

Parking and Transportation Director Ben Fletcher (via Zoom) explained that there is now only one Taxi Company licensed within the City of Portsmouth so there is no need for multiple taxi-stands and are keeping just one.

- **CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS – NONE**

- **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**

Mayor McEachern opened the public hearing asking if anyone wished to speak. Seeing no one, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS - None**

**Councilor Blalock moved to pass second reading and schedule a third and final reading at the February 6, 2023 City Council meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to suspend the rules to hold third and final reading of ordinance. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.**

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

**Third and Final Reading of Ordinance:**

- A. Third and final reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article IV, Section 1.406 – Cable Television and Communications Commissions to be named Cable and Broadband Internet Commission

**Assistant Mayor moved to pass third and final reading of ordinance as presented, seconded by Councilor Moreau.**

Assistant Mayor Kelley thanked the Commissioners for coming out tonight and for bringing this amendment forward.

Mayor McEachern stated it will be good to be able to advocate for better broadband and internet.

**Motion passed on a 9-0 vote.**

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

**A. CITY MANAGER CONARD**

1. Approval of Proposed MOA for Portsmouth School Custodial Supervisors

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve the proposed agreement as presented. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.**

2. Approval of Proposed MOA for Portsmouth School District Para-educators and Portsmouth Police Civilian Employees Association - ***Previously acted upon***

3. Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with Portsmouth City Employees, Local #1386B

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve the proposed agreement as presented. Seconded by councilor Moreau and voted.**

4. Drainage and Water Services Access Easement for Property Located at 1169/1171 Sagamore Avenue

**Councilor Tabor moved to authorize the City Manager to accept and record a drainage easement and an access easement for water services from Sagamore Group, LLC and to grant a drainage easement to Sagamore Group LLC. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.**

5. Public Access Easement for 238 Deer Street

**Councilor Moreau moved to grant authority for the City Manager to negotiate, execute, accept and record the Easement for Public Access in a form similar to the attached document as provided in the City Council packet of January 23, 2023. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.**

6. Formal Acceptance of Longmeadow Road Property Located at Longmeadow Road

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to accept Longmeadow Road as a City street. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.**

7. Acceptance of Hodgdon Way as a City Street

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to accept Hodgdon Way as a City street. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.**

8. Easements for Property Located at 951 Peverly Hill Road and 1400 Lafayette Road

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to authorize the City Manager to finalize, accept and record community space easements, a sidewalk easement, and an access easement for water services from 4 Amigos LLC and Yokens Townhomes, LLC. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.**

## **XII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.**

- A. Request from Greg and Beth Danilowski, Richardson's Market, to install a Projecting Sign at 142 State Street (*Anticipated action – move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request*)

### **Planning Director's Stipulations:**

- *The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;*
- *Any removal or relocation of projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at to the City; and*



- ***Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works***
  
- B. Letter from Becky Kates, Krempels Center, requesting permission to hold the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Cisco Brewers Portsmouth Memorial Day 5K on Sunday, May 28, 2023 ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***
  
- C. Letter from Rich Clyborne, Gundalow Company, requesting permission to hold the 2023 Riverfest Event on Saturday, June 3, 2023 ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***
  
- D. Letter from Alex Cave and Wendy McCoole, Strawberry Banke Museum, informational listing of events being held on Strawberry Banke grounds in 2023. ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***
  
- E. Letter from Valerie Rochon, Portsmouth NH 400<sup>th</sup> Inc., informational listing of three upcoming signature events in celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Portsmouth. ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***

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

- A. Email Correspondence

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.**

- B. Letter from Barbara McMillan, Chair, Conservation Commission, requesting City Council's support for review and proposed revisions to Article 10, Environmental Protections Standards of the Zoning Ordinance

**Councilor Denton moved to accept and place on file, seconded by Councilor Blalock.**

Councilor Denton stated the Zoning Ordinance was last reviewed in 2016.

Councilor Moreau stated that the Conservation Commission should work with the Planning Board and suggested a joint work session to discuss the Land Use Conditional Use Permit.

Mayor McEachern clarified that this letter is requesting the Council to support the review process and proposing revisions which will be brought back to the City Council.

**Motion voted.**

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

1. Appointments to be Considered:
  - Appointment of Anna Howard to the Economic Development Commission, alternate
  - Appointment of Anne Hayes to the COVID Response Task Force Blue Ribbon Committee

The appointments of Anna Howard as alternate to the Economic Development Commission and Anne Hayes to the COVID Response Task Force Blue Ribbon Committee were considered and will be voted at the February 6, 2023 City Council meeting.

2. Appointment of City Manager Karen Conard as the Portsmouth Representative to the Pease Development Authority Board of Directors

**Councilor Tabor moved to appoint City Manager Karen Conard as the Portsmouth Representative to the Pease Development Authority Board of Directors, seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.**

Mayor McEachern thanked Erik Anderson for his diligent work as the representative or the past 3 years. He continued that he is excited to appoint City Manager Conard for her expertise and having the weight of the City and staff to empower the City Council with the PDA.

Councilor Denton stated this gives the City Council more opportunity to weigh-in on upcoming issues.

#### **Motion voted.**

3. Update on Sound Barriers

Mayor McEachern gave a brief update on the status of the installation of sound barriers in conjunction with upcoming work by the State DOT. He further stated there will be a page on the city website regarding sound barriers with links to the State of NH information.

4. Sherburne School Neighborhood Meeting – January 31, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor McEachern announced the upcoming neighborhood meeting regarding Sherburne School disposition will be held on January 31, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. He explained that this will be a dialogue and not a work session and Craig Welch of the Portsmouth Housing Authority will be in attendance.

Councilor Blalock stated the neighborhood is excited to be a part of the process and there are flyers being made to provide information on the meeting. He asked if there could also be a lighted message board placed in the area.

Councilor Moreau asked if the meeting will be recorded.

City Manager Conard stated there is no recording capability at the Sherburne School location.

## **XV. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **A. COUNCILOR TABOR**

1. Community Power update, motion to schedule work session

Councilor Tabor stated that this is becoming a reality in some communities including Exeter and Rye. He continued that we are trying to meet residents demand for renewable energy and there were surveys sent out to the residents and 100's of responses have been received. He explained that the next steps will be to conduct two public hearings on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup> to receive more feedback. He stated we originally thought that this would launch in the Fall but now it looks like we can do it in June.

**Councilor Tabor moved to schedule a work session February 13, 2023 to present The Energy Advisory Committee Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP) and Community Power launch plans prior to February 21 proposal to the council from PEAC to adopt the EAP, seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.**

Councilor Moreau asked if this will be available to residents and businesses.

Councilor Tabor replied yes.

Councilor Cook stated she is always impressed with the level of skill and expertise of the committee members.

Mayor McEachern thanked Councilor Tabor and former Councilor Lazenby for their work on bringing this forward and hopefully will be ready for June.

**Motion voted.**

### **B. COUNCILOR TABOR AND COUNCILOR DENTON**

1. Report Back on Fee Committee (*previously acted upon*)

### **C. COUNCILOR BAGLEY**

1. Parking and Traffic Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the January 5, 21023 meeting

**Councilor Bagley moved to approve and accept the action sheet and minutes of the January 5, 2023 Parking and Traffic Safety Committee meeting, seconded by Councilor Denton.**

Councilor Bagley spoke regarding the approval of a pilot of a mini roundabout on Bartlett Street.

Mayor McEachern stated he wants to ensure that there will be more than orange barrels to delineate the area and make it less ugly without spending lots of money. He stated he also doesn't want bollards.

Councilor Bagley stated that Department. of Public Works will do what it needs to do and then we can get feedback.

Mayor McEachern stated the goal is to make it harder for trucks to be in that area. Councilor Bagley stated there was a community meeting with 2 choices presented and the roundabout was chosen.

Councilor Lombardi asked how big of a center will there be.

City Manager Conard stated they are not sure yet but it will be something that will be monitored.

Councilor Denton asked what the other option was.

Councilor Bagley stated a raised sidewalk at the intersection.

Mayor McEachern stated the survey needs to be resident-based but people don't necessarily pay attention until it happens.

Councilor Bagley stated the 4 stop signs are not working and the trucks are still there.

Mayor McEachern agrees and the speed is high as well.

**Motion voted.**

**D. COUNCILOR COOK AND COUNCILOR BAGLEY** *(Previously acted upon)*

1. (Sample motion #1 - Move to include the downtown area bounded by Deer Street, the Piscataqua River, Prescott Park, Court Street, and Maplewood Avenue/Middle Street in the redesign of Market Square in 2023 with the goal of enhanced pedestrian access with expanded sidewalks, expanded sidewalk dining throughout downtown and reduced traffic congestion, including possible redesign of traffic flow (two-way traffic) on State Street.
2. (Sample motion #2 - Move to adopt the attached proposed policy on outdoor dining.)

**XVI. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS**

- A. Acceptance of Donation to Playground Update from the Portsmouth Rotary - \$15,000.00

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve and accept the donation as presented. Seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.**

- B. Acceptance of Donation to Portsmouth Tree Project from the Portsmouth Rotary - \$15,000.00

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve and accept the donation as presented. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.**

Assistant Mayor Kelley explained that residents can go to the Trees and Greenery portal on the city website to request a tree as part of the Portsmouth400 400 trees program.

Councilor Lombardi stated that the Portsmouth Rotary also recently donated \$100,000.00 which was very generous.

Mayor McEachern agreed and stated they are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

C. Acceptance of Donation to the Skatepark from Michelle Dupras - \$50.00

**Councilor Blalock moved to approve and accept the donation as presented. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

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

### 1. McIntyre Update

City Manager gave a brief update on the status of the McIntyre project stating that since the approval of the supplemental appropriation on January 9<sup>th</sup>, the city is under contract with two expert financial firms which are examining the developer's construction cost estimates presented to the city and the various ways to finance the project to identify the best possible financial arrangement for the city. The first check-in of three is set for January 31<sup>st</sup>. She concluded that the license agreement extension with the GSA and the milestones set in the agreement are available on the city website.

### 2. Report Back on Disc Golf – Informational only

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

Councilor Lombardi stated he had previously requested a report back on the Bellamy Water Line issue. City Manager Conard stated this will be brought back at the February 6, 2023 Council meeting.

Councilor Cook stated she would like a report back on the proposed refueling facility at Pease once City Manager Conard begins attending the PPA meetings. City Manager Conard stated here first meeting will be in March as there will not be one held in February.

Councilor Lombardi stated that the Millionaire Company wants to come into Pease to install the refueling facility close to wetlands which is receiving pushback from Newington. He stated that the City of Portsmouth has wells out there so we should be concerned as well.

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

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.**

Respectfully submitted:

Valerie A. French  
Deputy City Clerk