

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: July 6, 2023 (after 9:00 a.m.) – July 10, 2023 (before 5:00 p.m.)

July 10, 2023 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

Submitted on Thu, 07/06/2023 - 10:30

Full Name

Tom Morgan

Email

tzm7@mac.com

Subject

EV Fast Chargers

Address

39 Richards Avenue

Message

Today’s edition of the Washington Post reports that “July 4 was Earth’s hottest day on record.” Portsmouth holds the distinction as the only NH city that bans EV fast chargers in the city center. Councilor Denton drafted a zoning amendment to lift the ban. On May 2, 2022, the council voted unanimously to send Councilor Denton’s amendment to the Planning Board for comment. Planning Board members advise me that they have not yet received the document. Can someone tell me when city staff plans to share this document with the Planning Board?

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

City Manager Conard Response to above:

Good afternoon Mr. Morgan, Honorable Mayor and City Council Members –

This email responds to your statement below that the City of Portsmouth “bans EV fast chargers in the city center.” This statement is incorrect. In fact, just like solar panels on rooftops, EV chargers are allowed, and have been approved, as an accessory use within any zoning district in the City of Portsmouth. Our Planning staff and I have had no inquiries from yourself or others about the ability to install EV fast chargers, and if we did have a request for an EV fast charger as part of a development proposal, that would most likely be allowed if all other zoning requirements were met.

Currently, Electric Vehicle Charging is allowed by special exception in the GB, G1, B, CD4-W and I zones as described in the definition of motor vehicle service stations (see definition below). Amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow EV chargers as a principal use in more zones could ease the installation of EV Charging infrastructure in the city. But to be clear, an EV charging station could be included as an accessory use to any permitted principal use currently.

It is my understanding that amendments related to EV charging stations will be included in the next major tranche of items for consideration by the Planning Board.

Should there be follow up inquiries relative to this matter, I would be happy to address them.

Thank you –
Karen Conard
City Manager

Motor vehicle service station

An **establishment** that sells fuel (including but not limited to gasoline, diesel, natural gas, electricity or hydrogen) to individual vehicles. A **motor vehicle service station** may include the following:

- retail sale of propane and kerosene;
- retail sale of products required for motor vehicle maintenance such as oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, polish, wax, fuel additives and treatments, wipers, tires, batteries, windshield wiper fluid, cleaning fluids and similar items;
- minor automotive maintenance such as the addition of fluids, replacement of wiper blades and similar activities; and
- retail sale of over-the-counter consumer merchandise.

Submitted on Fri, 07/07/2023 - 13:54

Full Name

charlie griffin

Email

charlesgriffinesq@gmail.com

Subject

Police station upgrades

Address

210 Hillside Drive

Message

Mayor McEachern and Members of the Council,

Included in Monday nights \$17,350,000 proposed bond issue is \$400,000 for police station upgrades.

In April of last year you authorized a \$1.4 million bond issue to fund a feasibility study to determine the need for, and design cost of, a new police station.

I understand that the feasibility study has been completed and assume it concluded that a new police facility is needed.

If that is the case, why is it taking so long to move forward with the project?

As I noted in my e-mail to you in April of last year ,it is not as if no one has never designed a police station before ,but the Council seems to be treating this matter as if it had been asked to redesign the wheel.

I do not support continuing to throw good money into a bad police station.

However, when I read the description of the explanation for this bond issue ,I am stunned by the following statement "..if the police department moves into a new facility ,all the necessary repairs done to the current facility will benefit any city department moving into the space ."

I thought the rationale for the \$1.4 million bond issue was that the current police facility was no longer habitable. If that is the case why would it be habitable for some other city department ?On the other hand,if the current facility can be restored such that it is habitable why is there a need for a new police station ?

If the current police station is repairable, you need to state that and end any further discussion of a new facility.

If it is not, you need to direct the City Manager to proceed with the acquisition of a new site and the passage of a bond issue to defray the construction cost such that ground can be broken not later than April 1 of next year.

Either way you need to make a final decision .

As always I thank you for your consideration.

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, 07/10/2023 - 09:49

Full Name

Jim Splaine

Email

jimsplaineportsmouth@gmail.com

Subject

Ted Jankowski's Outreach, re: McIntyre

Address

201 Oriental Gardens

Message

To City Councilors -- I urge you to make the inquiry about the possibilities of using the Judd Gregg law to get the McIntyre building and land for \$1.00. This has been a long-time effort for two decades by Ted Jankowski, and I think he's on to something.

The City Council and staff should get behind him and make this work. Taking the initial step to me seems like the proverbial no-brainer, because it would give the city more options. I do hope that whatever happens that no "partnership" is involved in future efforts on McIntyre, but Ted's suggestion is timely. And please, hold as much of this discussion as you can in the open. Thank You.

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, 07/10/2023 - 10:21

Full Name

Christine Lukacz

Email

bobnbelle@gmail.com

Subject

Sports Complex

Address

45 Taft Rd

Message

I am opposed to the city partnering with a private company and getting involved in any manner with a private company. I do not want my tax dollars spent on a sports complex that is in partnership with a private business.

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, 07/10/2023 - 10:39

Full Name

Thomas Nies

Email

tnies@aol.com

Subject

Proposed Zoning Changes - Incentives

Address

419 Ricahrds Avenue

Message

Council Members:

I have an observation on the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance that will be the subject of a second hearing on July 10, 2023. In several places there are incentives designed to encourage developers to provide lower cost housing (see, for example, Section 10.5A43.30 (b)). The language of the proposed change is, in my opinion, not clear on the relationship between the size of the workforce units and the income limits.

To illustrate my concern, this language is typical: "1) 10% of any proposed for sale dwelling units within a development, whichever is greater, shall be workforce housing units (affordable to a household with an income of no more than 100 percent of the area median income for a 4-person household)." There is nothing that says the offered units must be suitable for a 4-person household.

This seems to mean a developer could meet the requirements of the ordinance with an efficiency unit suitable for one-person if it is affordable to a person with an income of \$111,750, the current FHA median income for the Portsmouth/Rochester housing area. The median income for a one-person household is only \$78,250.

If this is the Council's intent, it does not seem an effective way to increase the units that can be afforded by the workforce. If it is not the Council's intent, the language needs to be revised.

Tom Nies

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