

TO: KAREN CONARD, CITY MANAGER
FROM: KELLI L. BARNABY, CITY CLERK
RE: ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024
PRESENT: MAYOR McEACHERN, ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY, COUNCILORS TABOR, COOK, DENTON, BLALOCK, BAGLEY, MOREAU AND LOMBARDI

1. **Voted** to leave the Non-Public Session and seal the minutes.
2. Presentation of Mayor's Award – Mayor McEachern issued a Mayor's Award for Liz Forkel for her kindness in raising \$156,000.00 through spinning generosity and provided that funding to multiple nonprofit organizations.
3. Recognition of Nathan Lunney, School Business Administrator – Mayor McEachern and the City Council recognized Nathan Lunney for being named the NH School Business Administrator of the Year.
4. Public Comment Session – There were 15 speakers: Susan Sterry (Cemetery Cut); Andrea Stein Goldsworthy, Yussra Ebrahim, Mohammed Ebrahim, Gihan Abousamuk, Abdullah Ahmad, Anas Hannoun, Yasmin Alani, Rich DiPentima, Nicole Benoit (Kittery); Adeena Ahsan (Durham), Mikulas Please (Durham), Dullah (via Zoom) (Ceasefire); Lenore W. Bronson (Resident Concerns); Jennifer Mandelbaum (Market/Hanover Intersection).
5. Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution Pursuant to RSA 72:39-b the City hereby amends the elderly exemption based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers, such that the exemption shall be available only when the qualifying taxpayers(s) have a net income – Held a public hearing. **Voted** to adopt Option 1 of the Elderly Exemption Resolution by amending Single person from \$51,741.00 to \$54,000.00.

OPTION 1:

Proposed increase of Elderly Exemption by the Social Security cost-of-living increase

Single	\$54,000.00
Married	\$70,793.00
Asset Limit	\$500,000.00

6. Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution Pursuant to RSA 72:39-b the City hereby amends the disabled exemption based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers, such that the exemption shall be available only when the qualifying taxpayers(s) have a net income of not more than – Held a public hearing. **Voted** to adopt Option 1 of the Disabled Exemption Resolution with exception that Single person be set at \$54,000.00.

OPTION 1:

Proposed increase of Disabled Exemption by the Social Security cost-of-living increase

Single	\$54,000.00
Married	\$70,793.00
Asset Limit	\$500,000.00

7. Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution Appropriating Thirty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Four (\$34,574) Dollars from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant to Pay Costs Associated with Pandemic Response Supplies and for the Payment of Costs Incidental and Related Thereto – Held a public hearing. **Voted** to pass third and final reading of this Resolution, and adopt the Resolution as presented.
8. Adoption of Outdoor Dining Design Standards/Best Practices and to repeal City Council Policy 2012-02, Policy Regarding Use of City Property for Sidewalk Café's Providing Alcohol Service – **Voted** to pass the City of Portsmouth Outdoor Dining Design Standards/Best Practices and to repeal City Council Policy 2012-02, Policy Regarding Use of City Property for Sidewalk Café's Alcohol Service.
9. Adoption of Outdoor Dining Encumbrance Permit Fees – **Voted** to approve the Outdoor Dining Encumbrance Permit Fees as recommended by the Fee Committee as follows:
Per square foot costs: \$5.00
Minimum fee: \$750.00

Assistant Mayor Kelley abstained from voting on this matter.

10. Auction of Excess Granite Materials – **Voted** to recommend the City Manager be authorized to sell excess granite materials.
11. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Request from Tod O'Dowd, Avery Insurance, to install a Projecting Sign at 51 Islington Street, Unit 103 – **Voted** to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning & Sustainability 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***

12. Email Correspondence – **Voted** to accept and place on file.

13. Request from the NH Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to hold a grave marking ceremony at the North Cemetery – **Voted** to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act.
14. Appointments to be Considered – The City Council considered the appointments outlined below which will be voted upon at the next City Council meeting.
- Appointment of Chuck Raye to the Citywide Neighborhood Committee
 - Appointment of Elisabeth “Betsy” Blaisdell to the Energy Advisory Committee
 - Appointment of Tracey Cameron to the Energy Advisory Committee
 - Appointment of Herb Lloyd to the Energy Advisory Committee
 - Appointment of Thomas Nies to the Zoning Board of Adjustment
15. Appointments to be Voted – **Voted** to approve the following appointments:
- Appointment of Jessica Dickey as an Alternate to the Arts & Cultural Commission
 - Appointment of Andrew Samonas as a regular member of the Planning Board until December 31, 2026
 - Appointment of Ernie (Ernestine) Greenslade to the Public Art Review Committee
 - Appointment of Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf to the Public Art Review Committee
16. Appointments to Blue Ribbon Committees – Mayor McEachern announced the members of the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee as outlined below.
- Appointment of Megan Corsetti to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
 - Appointment of Tracy Kozak to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
 - Appointment of Mary Loane to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
 - Appointment of Byron Matto as the School Board Representative to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
 - Appointment of Dagan Migirditch to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
 - Appointment of John O’Leary to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
 - Appointment of Jen Stebbins Thomas to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
 - Appointment of Erik Anderson to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
17. Resolution regarding Staffing Mandate for Nursing Home – **Voted** to refer to the Legislative Subcommittee with the Authority to Act.
18. State Street Two-Way Redesign CIP Recommendation – Councilor Cook requested that a CIP sheet be drawn up and included in the next City Council packet for State Street Two-Way Redesign as an amendment to the CIP. Councilor Moreau requested that this would be a two-year funding project with the first-year design and the second-year construction. No action taken.
19. Parking & Traffic Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the February 1, 2024 meeting – **Voted** to approve and accept the action sheet and minutes of the February 1, 2024 Parking & Traffic Safety Committee meeting.
20. Approval of Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant - \$15,000.30 – **Voted** to the terms of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as presented in the amount of \$15,000.30 for updating the local hazard mitigation plan. Furthermore, the City acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$16,667.00, in which the city will be responsible for a 10% match of \$1,666.70.

21. City Manager's Informational Items – FY25 Budget Intentions – City Manager Conard suggested reductions in Capital Outlay and Information Systems as presented in the Capital Improvement Plan. She indicated with these reductions and use of ARPA funding totaling \$1,111,858.00, if approved the FY25 Capital Outlay and Information Systems will be \$362,156.00 less than the FY24 Budget for these same items. In addition, funding for the ambulance replacement will be changed from cash rolling stock to bond/lease rolling stock. Also, City Manager Conard proposed to use the \$2,183,054.00 in the remaining Revenue Loss portion of ARPA funds as revenue in the general fund in FY25 to obligate and expend on general government services.
22. Report Back on Home Occupation Zoning – **Voted** to request that the language in the City Council packet be sent to the Planning Board for discussion and returned to the City Council.
23. Market Square Master Plan Working Group – City Manager Conard reported that she is working with Mayor McEachern to set up a Working Group for the Market Square Master Plan.
24. Miscellaneous Business Including Business Remaining Unfinished at Previous Meeting – Assistant Mayor Kelley recognized the Portsmouth Debate Team being the only team from New Hampshire competing at Harvard this week in a three-day competition.

Councilor Tabor reported that the City Council and Planning Board is having a Joint Listening Session on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers regarding the Study Circle Dialogue Report Out regarding Places to Live.

Councilor Blalock reported that the Portsmouth High School Alpine Ski Team won the Division 1 State Championship. He also reported that several individuals on the Wrestling Team won State Championships.

Councilor Moreau announced Wednesday, February 21, 2024, the Historic District Commission and Planning Board will be meeting regarding Solar Panels at the Levenson Room in the Library at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor McEachern reported that the City is working to mitigate the issues surrounding the construction project at the High Hanover Garage.

25. Adjournment – At 9:25 p.m., **voted** to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC/CNHMC
City Clerk