

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: March 28, 2024 (after 9:00 a.m.) – April 1, 2024 (before 5:00 p.m.)

April 1, 2024 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

Submitted on Fri, 03/29/2024 - 10:34

First Name

Tom

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Message

I am writing in regards to the proposed zoning amendment that would regulate electric vehicle (EV) chargers. As you may know, city staff replaced the amendment proposed by Councilor Denton with one prepared by staff.

Generators – EV fast chargers do not utilize generators. Were you to vote to adopt the generator language proposed by staff, you will embarrass yourselves.

Pease Omitted - Councilor Denton’s 2022 proposal addressed all of Portsmouth’s 28 zoning districts. Inexplicably, staff’s proposal ignores the four at Pease. At the March 21 meeting of the Planning Board, I inquired about the missing districts. No response was forthcoming.

Disparate Land Uses - Staff defines a “Motor Vehicle Service Station” as: 1) EV chargers, 2) automotive repair shops, 3) convenience stores (with gas pumps out front), and 4) facilities for the sale and exchange of EV batteries. These four have little in common. Staff should craft separate regulations for each. Otherwise, none of the four will be regulated effectively.

Chargers Are Not Permitted As An Accessory Use – The City Manager’s March 28 memo to the council states that “An EV charging station is currently allowed as an accessory use to any permitted principal use..” The City Manager is mistaken. In fact, such installations are prohibited by the ordinance. That is the reason why Portsmouth is dead last among NH cities in EV charger installations, notwithstanding our advantageous location in the I-95 corridor. The proposal currently before you would permit chargers as an accessory use, thereby lifting one of two major impediments to such installations.

Off-Street Parking Regulations – The second major impediment to Level 3 charger installations is the city’s off-street parking regulations. The space occupied by transformers and inverters should be exempted from the off-street parking requirements.

Fire Safety – Electric vehicles rarely catch on fire during charging, but when they do, toxic fumes may be released. First responders have found such fires to be particularly challenging. The city should ensure that proposals for installations in enclosed spaces such as below-grade parking facilities are examined by those with expertise in fire safety. Planning staff forwarded their proposed ordinance to the Legal Department for review and comment, but neglected to solicit comments from the Fire Department.

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 Sun, 03/31/2024 - 19:11

First Name

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Message

Please act quickly to approve the next workforce housing project requiring an MOU from you. Ruth Griffin Place was not only an attractive addition to downtown, it had a waiting list before it was even finished. More please!

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, 04/01/2024 - 09:02

First Name

Logan

Last Name

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Message

Dear Mayor and Council:

I'm following the meetings of the newly reconstituted Housing Committee with great interest and appreciation. It is an impressive body of representative residents, council planning staff, and councilors. It has lots of promise.

As you all appreciate from the Portsmouth Listens Housing Dialogue presentations, participants struck a couple of themes, primarily the need for action instead of more reports and a sense of urgency. The Sherburne School site is an easy win for our community. I run and bike through that area frequently, and my impression of the area is that it's deserted. We have a prime opportunity to bring life back to a previously developed site and provide for our residents with negligible negative impact to the environment, surrounding neighborhoods, or our tax base.

While I appreciate those in the nearby neighborhood wish to preserve their neighborhood, the Pannaway Manor residents who spoke out against this development should not be the deciding voice on a piece of property across I-95. I live across a busy street (Hwy 1) from a large public housing project; I can't think of a single way that housing area impacts me at all, much less any negative impact. In fact, the kids walking to school or coming to my door to fundraise bring positive benefits to me and my neighborhood.

I ask you to please consider asking City staff to report to you about the requirements and implications of such a memorandum of understanding/agreement with PHA so that, barring unseen impediments, they can proceed quickly with a project that will emulate the success of Ruth Lewin Place.

Thank you for your time,

Logan Roy

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