

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, January 10, 2011
6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on, Monday, January 10, 2010 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Acting President of Council, John Haas called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed a moment of silent prayer.

Roll Call showed the following members to be present:

Kevin Johnson	1 st Ward
Vacant	2 nd Ward
Nicholas Basham	3 rd Ward
Jerrold Albrecht	4 th Ward
John Haas	5 th Ward
Richard Noel	6 th Ward

Also present were Mayor David A. Malone; City Solicitor, Mike L. Jones and City Auditor, M. Trent Williams.

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the regular session of December 27, 2010, on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

There was no public hearing and no one present wished to address Council regarding any item on the agenda.

LEGISLATION

The Clerk gave a **second reading** to an ordinance to make appropriations necessary for the current expenses of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio for the months of January 2011 and February 2011 as provided for in Section 50 of the Charter of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.

Councilman Albrecht moved to suspend the rule requiring an ordinance be read on three separate dates.

The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0 The rule was suspended,**

Councilman Albrecht made a motion to pass the ordinance.

There were no questions or comments. The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0 The ordinance was passed. ORD. #01-11**

The Clerk gave a **first reading** to an ordinance authorizing the acceptance and appropriation of a check in the amount of \$2,436.52 received from Midwest claims to repair damage to Vehicle No. 208 Aerial Platform into Fire Department Maintenance of licensed Vehicles Line Item No. 101.223.5264.

Councilman Albrecht moved to suspend the rule requiring an ordinance be read on three separate dates.

The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0 The rule was suspended.**

Councilman Albrecht made a motion to pass the ordinance.

There were no questions or comments. The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0 The ordinance was passed. ORD. #02-11**

The Clerk gave a **first reading** to an ordinance authorizing and directing the Auditor of the city of Portsmouth, Ohio to distribute all City Income Taxes for the year 2011 collected in accordance with City Ordinances No. 100 of 1970, No. 110 of 1976 and No. 84 of 1987 into the General Fund and Capital Improvement fund as hereinafter set forth.

Councilman Albrecht moved this constitute a first reading.

There were no questions or comments. The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0 A first reading was declared.**

The Clerk gave a **first reading** to a resolution requesting the advance payment of all taxes now standing to the account of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, from the Treasurer of Scioto County, Ohio, and any

and all other monies due the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, included in the certificate of estimated resources as issued and approved by County Budget Commission, and to be credited to the respective funds by the warrants received from the Auditor of Scioto County, Ohio.

Councilman Albrecht made a motion to adopt the resolution.

There were no questions or comments. The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0 The resolution was adopted. RES. #01-11**

STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Zoe Richards, representing Main Streets, located at the Welcome Center, was present to share with Council a little information with regard to the money Main Streets received from the City's capital improvement funds for historic preservation. Mrs. Richards reported Main Street to have recently rewarded \$25,000 to various properties in the historic district. She advised that when they first started receiving applications there were requests for over \$175,000.00 in projects for the \$25,000.00 that was available. She noted that the \$25,000.00 will fund about \$130,000.00 in projects. She advised Council to call Main Street's offices if anyone wanted to know more about the funded projects. She expressed her hope that Council will continue to support historic preservation in our area.

Miscellaneous business and reports:

City Clerk's Report

1. Oath of Office
Kristie Fannin for position of Sanitarian in the Health Department
2. Received from the City Solicitor, pursuant to Section 733.62 of the Ohio Revised Code, an annual report for the year 2010.

The Clerk's report was received, filed and made a part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

Mayor's Report

1. Acknowledged having provided Council with a "rough draft" of a 2011 budget, which he advised he was making corrections to the figures as late as 5:45 this evening. He expressed his hope of finalizing everything in a couple of weeks, saying he is in the process of discussing concessions with the unions to see what they will do to help with the budget. He advised Council to feel free to talk with him or any department head if they have any questions.
2. The Mayor introduced Jeanette Langford, who he has hired, contingent upon Council approving the budget, to serve as his Administrative Assistant. He also introduced Juanita Jewett, who previously was employed by the City and has man resources officer. He advised both of these positions will be part-time, which he said would relieve some of the burden of the budget. He also advised that Tracy, a holdover from the former Mayor's staff, will continue in her position as the Assistant to the Mayor.
3. With regard to the budget, the Mayor announced a savings in the cost of Workers Compensation, noting the rate to have decreased from about 6% to 4.6 %
4. The Mayor updated Council with regard to the mold situation in the area of the Police Department, advising them that the cleanup effort is underway as of this week and a time frame of about 60 days has been provided. He expressed his hope that the Police Department will once again be located at one site instead of being spread out over the community.
5. The Mayor further advised Council that he is working with officials from New Boston for the recertification of our flood defense system. He reported the City having received a letter advising that we are "in line", at this point, with regard to flood plain regulations, noting an update will be forthcoming.

The Mayor's report was received, filed and made a part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

President's Report

1. The Acting President congratulated the Mayor on making "excellent" choices when filling the positions in the Mayor's office.

2. He asked the Mayor and Solicitor to work on something to be on the next conference agenda that would include an increase in Income Tax. He expressed his desire for discussion on this issue to begin, noting this to be something that has been considered for several years.
3. He advised Council that he spoke with Suzette Rhea, Chairperson of the Cultural Affairs Panel, and was advised an organizational meeting is being scheduled for either the Welcome Center or the Library.
4. Acknowledging Council to have received two applications to fill the vacancy in the 2nd Ward, the Acting President requested an executive session to be held prior to the adjournment of this meeting to discuss the applications and to talk with each of the applicants.

The President's report was received, filed and made a part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

Miscellaneous business from City Council

- 6th Ward Councilman Noel had nothing to report.
- 5th Ward Acting President Haas had nothing to report from his ward
- 4th Ward Councilman Albrecht reported on receiving a complaint about snow on one of the City's streets, which he said was promptly addressed after advising Mr. Beaumont of the situation.
- 3rd Ward Councilman Basham had nothing to report.
- 1st Ward Councilman Johnson expressed his delight at seeing Ms. Langford in the Mayor's office.

Referring to a shooting in Tucson, Arizona this weekend that killed several people and wounded a congresswoman, Mr. Johnson expressed his hope that these people will be kept in our prayers.

In response to a Letter to the Editor of the Portsmouth Daily Times and on "the web" regarding the cost of health insurance for members of Council, Mr. Johnson refuted the amount of \$17,000 being erroneously reported by the writer of the letter. For the record, Mr. Johnson asked that it be noted that a single policy costs the City \$428.27 per month, which does not equate to \$17,000.00 per year. He further noted that a family policy costs the City \$1,177.73. He said he did not mind and in fact enjoys a debate but asked those that are going to quote figures to be accurate.

The Solicitor welcomed the new members to the Mayor's staff as well as the return of Ms. Jewett.

The Auditor also welcomed the Mayor's staff.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to recess into an executive session to discuss the applications for the 2nd ward vacancy and to interview those who applied. The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 4 (Basham; Albrecht; Haas; Johnson) – nays 1 (Noel) Council recessed into an executive session at 6:25 p.m. NOTE: Councilman Noel voted to "pass" because he felt executive sessions might not be legal, however Mr. Noel did attend the executive session)**

Council reconvened at 7:10 p.m., on a motion by Councilman Johnson. Roll Call showed all those previously in attendance were present.

The Acting President expressed his appreciation the opportunity to speak with the two candidates wishing to serve the unexpired term of the second ward. Mr. Haas described both candidates as being "outstanding" and noted all the calls and comments he received about either or both of them, without exception, have been positive. Mr. Haas opened the floor for nominations.

Councilman Albrecht, noting this responsibility is not something that is taken lightly and concurred with Mr. Haas in regard to the quality of the two candidates. He said he felt this to be the first time that applications for a vacancy on Council have resulted in all applicants being well qualified. Mr. Albrecht nominated Mr. Saddler for the position of 2nd Ward Councilman.

Councilman Johnson nominated Mr. Cave.

The roll was called on the first nomination. **VOTE: ayes 5 (Albrecht; Haas; Noel; Johnson; Basham) Mr. Saddler was declared to be the Councilman of the Second Ward.**

The Solicitor administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Saddler who, following congratulations from Council, took his seat at the table.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m., on a motion by Councilman Johnson.

City Clerk

Acting President of Council