

MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES
Portsmouth City Council Meeting on
January 25, 2021 – 7:08 p.m.

Members present:

Sean Dunne	1 st Ward
Charlotte Gordon	2 nd Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 rd Ward
Lyvette Mosley	4 th Ward
Edwin Martell	5 th Ward
Dennis Packard	6 th Ward

Also present was City Manager Sam Sutherland, City Clerk Diana Ratliff and Solicitor John Haas. Auditor M. Trent Williams was absent.

1. **Portsmouth Edition Monopoly** **CM-21-03**

Manager Sutherland stated that Councilman Dunne had addressed this by stated that we could not do it now.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #4, to reject.

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays**

2. **ODSA Resolution Request** **CM-21-04**

Manager Sutherland stated that this was the Ohio Development Services Agency request for the city to participate in the revolving loan program. He stated that this was an allotment of funding that the city could help businesses with financial assistance if need be but sometimes what happens was that businesses could find funding cheaper alternatives and when that happens the city could use this money for Capital Projects. He said that the money was there and if it wasn’t used, the city could use it and one year they used it to fund a sewer project. It basically allowed the city to have access to the funds.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays**

Discussion –

Grant Process for Community Agency Funding – Councilwoman Gordon stated that she had passed out the application that all of Council was to look over, she will collect those and then she will get together with Manager Sutherland and Director Shearer to go over and make changes. This would allow the city to know who the money was going to, how much and how it was being used. She would like the application to include ADA requirements and would like to see a final budget be required so that the city could see that the money was used the way they said they were going to use it. Councilman Martell asked her if she had seen the email from Auditor Williams regarding the amount of money that was distributed. She had not seen it but she now has a new computer and should be able to access it. She asked him if he remembered what we had spent it on. Clerk Ratliff had that information from Auditor Williams, the following were the organizations that the City had supported routinely along with amounts.

Friends of Portsmouth	Independence Day Fireworks	\$5,000.00	
Friends of Portsmouth	River Days Festival	\$5,000.00	
Friends of Portsmouth	Boat Races	\$10,000.00	2019
Buckeye Elite Event Management	Basketball Tournament	\$3,500.00	
Northend Super Reunion	Community Festival	\$2,500.00	Every third year
Main Street	Operations & Revitalization Grants	\$55,000.00	

She felt that it was a substantial amount of money and that data could be used in order to apply for other grants.

Confederate Flags – Councilman Martell stated that he had given it a lot of thought and he made a decision and had already ordered a Portsmouth City Flag; the flag will have the City seal on it and he proposed to present this person at the campground with the Portsmouth flag in trade for the Confederate flag and he felt that would give more love of our city and would be a better flag to fly than the Confederate flag. He said that hopefully people understand that City Council would not tolerate that kind of speech in our city. Mayor Johnson stated that he, Councilwoman Gordon and Vice President Dunne were meeting with seven other individuals from the campground because they wanted to keep the number to 10 people as required. They will meet Wednesday evening and he didn't want to exclude anyone but only three Councilmembers can meet at a time because any more than that, there would be a quorum. He was looking for positive results and hopefully work together. Councilwoman Mosley reiterated what she said at the last meeting, that when she sees that flag, she felt intimidated and threatened and whatever she's doing, she goes the other way because she doesn't want any trouble based on the past. Mayor Johnson said he didn't want to leave it there and address Councilwoman Mosley and said that he was sorry that she had to feel that way and that no one should feel that way.

Renewable Energy – Councilman Dunne stated that he hadn't heard back from them and for right now, this could be removed and if he hears back from them, it can be added at that time.

Cleanup Program with Utilization Students – Councilman Martell stated that the Pick program used to be in Ohio but they no longer have it. He said it was fully funded by grant money and that the city could apply for and it was a youth summer program. He said youth could apply for seasonal work for the city and the city could put them to work and pay them through the grant money and the city would partner with a Vocational School and in order for the youth to get paid, they would be required to take a class at a vocational school for a skill trade and after they're done with their class would be when they would get paid. That way the youth go to school, get trained in a skill and the city reaps the benefit of having the youth work for them. It does a lot for the community and the youth, keeps them busy especially during the summer time and gives them money in their pocket and they receive some sort of skill trade that could be used later in life such as welders, plumbers etc. He still needs to collect information but would like this to be continued over as a discussion item. He said that they would work wherever the city needed help. He said that there would be an age range and consent forms and he would continue his research. Councilwoman Mosley asked Mayor Johnson about the Crowns Act, he said he hadn't been able to find out anything regarding it, but they would speak after the meeting.

Delivery Fee Cap – Vice President Dunne stated that he had been speaking with local restaurants owners and with current restrictions more people were ordering food rather than dining in a restaurant and many of the companies that provide services to bring food to customers (phone apps, online) and they charge restaurants a percentage and many were 30% which makes the margins very thin for restaurants and if you're selling a hamburger for \$10.00 the restaurant was only making so much profit off that \$10.00 and then comes a company who takes 30% of that profit and basically the restaurant was breaking even. He said that Columbus City Council recognized this issue and passed legislation to limit the amounts that third party services could charge food vendors and they limited it at 15%. He said many of the restaurants were struggling to stay open and he proposed legislation in Portsmouth that would do the same thing as Columbus did by capping the fees in support of our local restaurants. He said this would be good for public health for those that were feeling uneasy about dining in at a restaurant, this would now provide them with an option that would be more beneficially to the local restaurants. He said the restaurants that he had spoken with were in support of this cap. Councilwoman Gordon stated that any help that could be given to local restaurants, the city should help them out. Mr. Dunne stated that it was under Columbus City Codes Chapter 574. Manager Sutherland stated that he would put it on his agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Dunne.

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk