

**MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES**  
**Portsmouth City Council Meeting on**  
**February 10, 2020 – 7:21 p.m.**

Members present:

Sean Dunne	1 <sup>st</sup> Ward
Charlotte Gordon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward
Andrew McManus	4 <sup>th</sup> Ward
Edwin Martell	5 <sup>th</sup> Ward
Thomas K. Lowe	6 <sup>th</sup> Ward

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

1. **Drug Task Force Grant** **CM-20-07**

Manager Sutherland stated that the city had been awarded a state grant in the amount of \$20,000 with a match of \$6,666.67 and was one that the city received every year.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

2. **Body Camera Grant** **CM-20-08**

Manager Sutherland stated that the city had been awarded \$16,038.75 with a match of \$5,346.25 which is a total of \$21,385.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

3. **Flood Defense Renewal** **CM-20-09**

Auditor Williams stated that at the last meeting a Resolution was adopted accepting the first step in renewing the flood defense levy and had been on the books for at least the past twenty-years since he’s worked for the city. He said the city had to petition the county auditor to give the numbers that came from a one (1) mill levy renewal or replacement. He said currently the one (1) mill levy generates about \$201,000 per year into the flood defense fund and the certificates state that the renewal would generate \$205,000 and a replacement would generate \$235,000. He added that there was no increase in the millage for either a renewal or replacement; a replacement takes it to a current day value rather than a previous millage rate revenue. The difference would be, that replacement would have to be passed which would’ve increased taxes by \$30,000 according to the County Auditor. Council could request any number of millage but he recommended the renewal and one of the reasons were that currently the city was having a rate study done which would increase water rates, sewer rates and possibly add a storm water fee and in his estimation the renewal would be the best way to go. He said that the city would have to justify the request and start a campaign as to why they thought the city needed the increase. He said there weren’t plans for flood defense that would require a lot of money. Manager Sutherland stated the only issue that was outstanding was the erosion of a pipe that caused a sinkhole behind Bob & Floyds Tire Shop at 12<sup>th</sup> & Chillicothe Street. Mr. Sutherland commended Director Rick Duncan for getting grant funds to cover a big hunk of the cost. However, when the project was bid out and it came in high and will need to be re-bid and the city may have to look at matching some money to get that project done.

Councilman Lowe asked about a project that the Corp of Engineers was doing down by the ballfields. Mr. Sutherland stated that the project would extend basically from McGovney’s Dock west past the stadium; they will be removing the dirt off of the floodwall and do some work, then put it back. It is a \$22,000,000

project with the Corp of Engineers and is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2020. He said they may have to look at maneuvering some folks around to get some ballfields for the Little League. Mr. Lowe said that one-year Portsmouth had to use Sciotoville's fields and they would try again to help them out.

Auditor Williams stated that a renewal was his recommendation and if that's what Council does, the certificate certified by the County Auditor was for the Solicitor which included the 1 mill renewal and had to accompany the legislation and be a part of the ordinance, because the City Clerk will need to file that with the Board of Elections to be on the ballot in November.

Vice President Dunne asked Auditor Williams if other cities that have flood walls were set up similar to Portsmouth's? Mr. Williams stated that he never had the time to dive into other city's floodwall business. Mr. Dunne commented that if you go along the Ohio River, some cities have decided not to have a flood wall and he wasn't suggesting to do that, but they have a nice view of the river. Mr. Williams stated that the city's upriver from Portsmouth that don't have floodwalls such as Pomeroy, were beautiful, but every once in a while, it's reported that stores and businesses on their main streets got flooded. Mr. Dunne stated that some cities were using different materials than what Portsmouth uses when putting up the gates to protect the city, because what the city uses has carcinogen's in them. Mr. Sutherland stated that it was timbers and beams coated in a chemical compound called creosote. Mr. Dunne said that the city could possibly get new gates if FEMA would pay for them.

Councilman Lowe motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

4. **Safe Routes to School Grant**

**CM-20-10**

Manager Sutherland explained that the city would receive a \$442,000 grant through ODOT and the match would be \$42,000. This would get some speed zone signing, speed zone flashing beacons, curb extensions, two raised crosswalks in the areas of the schools. He added that this would allow safer walking and biking conditions for the Waller & Gallia Street area; he believed that they had also looked at some stuff in Sciotoville too but it wasn't included in the letter. The funding doesn't come to the city until 2024 but the application process would begin soon. (Too many people talking at once, couldn't catch what was said). Mayor Johnson said he didn't want to be a naysayer but his mind goes back to December when the city struck a very nice deal with the school system to acquire property. The property wasn't given to the city, but a nice trade was made along with some money. He said, that this amount was \$442,000 and \$42,000 had to be paid and he believed that the City Schools should be asked to chip in on some of it. Mr. Sutherland stated that he would pursue that as a possibility. Mr. Johnson said the same would go for Sciotoville, if we provide these zones, they would need to chip in to help and asked that the legislation be modified to include the school participating in some of the match. (*Solicitor Haas was speaking but microphone was off*). It is noted that legislation was just to get the process in motion.

Councilman Lowe motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

5. **Police Department Shooting Range**

**CM-20-11**

Manager Sutherland stated that there was \$8,000 that should have been rolled-over to the new year, but it was missed. Since the beginning of the year, they have found some other improvements that need to happen in the amount of \$4,000. He requested a total appropriation of \$12,000 to finalize the improvements.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Dunne.

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk