

MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES
Portsmouth City Council Meeting on
February 25, 2019 – 6:56 p.m.

Members present:

Sean Dunne	1 st Ward
Jo Ann Aeh	2 nd Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 rd Ward
Jerrold Albrecht	4 th Ward (Absent)
Gene Meadows	5 th Ward (Absent)
Thomas K. Lowe	6 th Ward

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

1. **Co-Naming Findlay Street**

CM-19-17

Councilman Sean Dunne explained that McKinley Pool was currently under consideration to be placed on the National Register for Historic places and that it was part of a project throughout the State of Ohio where different spaces that were connected to the Civil Rights Movement were part of a collection of places that the Ohio Historical Office wanted to place on the National Registry. In acknowledgement and support it was suggested that the City Co-Name Findlay Street to include Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. He said that would be a way of supporting the connection between that space and the civil rights movement which was why Martin Luther King, Jr. was selected as the individual that the street would be named after. Councilman Lowe stated that if the neighborhood doesn't want to change it to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way but instead would rather have the other name mentioned in the previous meeting, Mr. Bailey would need to get a petition that stated that fact which would give Council more input on the item. Councilwoman Aeh agreed with Councilman Lowe in that if the neighbors don't want the name Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, then Council would need a petition from the neighbors stating that they rather have some other name.

Acting Mayor Johnson asked Thomas Bailey who had spoken at the previous meeting in opposition to the name Martin Luther King, Jr. and requested the co-name be Eugene Collins, Sr. Way. Mr. Bailey said that Mr. Collins grew up in Portsmouth just down the street from McKinley Pool and his background would tie in with the Civil Rights Movement. He said that he could get signatures on a petition. Acting Mayor Johnson stated that Mr. Collins was a wonderful man and he grew up with Mr. Collins' son. He added that possibly by co-naming the street with a nationally known name such as Martin Luther King, it may better the chances for the historical aspect of McKinley Pool. Councilman Dunne stated that when applying to a State or National organization for grants and trying to discuss the significance of the civil rights movement, and the Martin Luther King name was well known everywhere. Mr. Bailey felt confident that upon getting the additional information on Mr. Collins, it would be suffice to generate the additional funding. Mr. Dunne gave his point of view as a new citizen of Portsmouth and not taking away anything from Mr. Collins, but the people in Columbus that will be looking at the application, know the significance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. name. Mr. Dunne went on to say that the people he had spoken to in the First Ward were very supportive of the co-name Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Bailey again requested to be allowed to get the signatures of the community that support Eugene Collins, Sr. Way. Mr. Dunne stated that the next meeting was sometime in March. Mr. Johnson offered an alternative by stating that he really like the Martin Luther King, Jr. co-name for Findlay Street and the tie-in with McKinley Pool, and suggested an honorary co-name of 15th Street to be Eugene Collins, Sr. Way. Mr. Bailey asked how many signatures would be needed, Councilman Lowe told him "as many as you want to go out and get", he said this petition would not be like the election petitions. Mr. Dunne stated that the question on the petition should be that "currently it was under consideration to name/co-name the street Martin Luther King, Jr. Way" and the people would have to replace that name. He had already spoken with people in that area and this topic had never come up in the discussion and he would be interested in the support of not naming this street, Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and replacing it". Mrs. Aeh stated that would be a whole separate piece of legislation and at another time, but right now the topic was Findlay Street. Mr. Lowe said that he would still like to see petitions from the community because his decisions were based on what the community had to say.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned to accept Alternative #1.

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 4 Ayes – 0 Nays**

2. **Arches for Second Street**

CM-19-18

Councilman Dunne stated that this had been developing in the First Ward and in the past few weeks got clarification on how it all would work. He said the picture that he passed around showed how it would look going west on Second Street and the schematic showed where each would be located. He said that Friends of Portsmouth would dedicate the arches to the city and that way it would be covered under the city's insurance policy. He said that Friends of Portsmouth would raise the money for both the production and installation of the arches. The Friends of Portsmouth group requested assistance with road closures when the time came to install the arches. The lights to the current street poles would be transferred over to the arches. Acting Mayor Johnson asked if the current street poles would be done away with, Mr. Sutherland replied that since the city was currently paying the bill for the street lights, it would be added onto the bill at minimal cost to the city. Councilman Lowe stated he was a fan because most towns have an arch as you come into town, he asked how many arches would be installed, Mr. Dunne replied that 10 arches total. Mr. Dunne added that several groups had been involved, and that the trade unions would donate labor because they liked the look of it and they wanted to help improve the downtown. He said the group (Insolves) was actually making the arches "at cost" and a lot of people were contributing. He said the group had checked with AEP on height restrictions for wires and they were alright with it, but he would double check it to make sure. He added that the center would be 18 foot and the sides would be 14 foot and ODOT approved the height. The arches will be located from Washington Street going west down to just past Madison Street. The group would like to start on the project in April.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned to accept Alternative #1.

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 4 Ayes – 0 Nays**

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh.

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk