

MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES
Portsmouth City Council Meeting on
May 10, 2021 – 8:18 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 (Absent)
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. **VACANT BUILDING FEE**

CM-21-37

Manager Sutherland stated that this item was brought forward by Councilman Martell. Vice President Dunne stated that he would like to see it moved forward and when Mr. Martell returned, he could add more to it. Mayor Johnson advised that he would support this tonight so that it could be moved onto the Council agenda, however, he wasn't sure he would be supporting it in the future. He said if he was voting on it tonight, he would not support it. Solicitor Haas stated that if there were members that don't support the item, then don't put it on the agenda because he doesn't want to have to draft all of the legislation only to have Council not support it. He said that the Manager's Conference Session was where Council should be sorting it out and asking questions. He added that he wasn't sure how the vacancy fee was supposed to work in our town because there wasn't a demand for property. Councilwoman Gordon stated that maybe there was a demand but the buildings were decaying and there were people coming into her store asking about empty buildings. VP Dunne stated that if you speak with Property Developers in Portsmouth, you would hear about the frustration with people looking for properties and advised Solicitor Haas to speak with those that were trying to invest in the city. Solicitor Haas said that he had spoken with Realtors and they don't understand where it was coming from or what the purpose was because you cannot force people to be interested in renting property and it had been made worse with the pandemic. Ms. Gordon stated that there were empty buildings without for sale or for rents signs in them and they're not being developed. She added that the city had one part of town that was being developed and the other part was falling apart. She said either you develop it, you rent it or you sale it but something had to happen because the decay was a deafening silence in this town.

Vice President Dunne motioned to accept alternative #1.

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 3 Ayes – 2 Nays (K. Johnson & D. Packard), the item wasn't moved forward. Manager Sutherland advised that he would put it on the agenda again for Mr. Martell.**

2. **BEE KEEPERS IN CITY LIMITS**

CM-21-38

Manager Sutherland stated that a request had come through about the issue of not allowing honey bees within the City limits. He believed that if Council wanted to do so, they could remove the word honey bees from the language to make it permissible. Councilwoman Gordon stated that she would like to see a cap put on how many hives that citizens could have within the city limits, so that you don't have someone filling up their backyard making a farm of bees because that may become a nuisance. Perhaps set it at a couple of hives.

Vice President Dunne motioned to accept alternative #2 to modify the request.

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 5 Ayes – 0 Nay**

3. **VACATION OF OUTLOOK STREET**

CM-21-39

Manager Sutherland stated that this came before Council in November of 2020 and they just now received the legal description.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

There were no further questions or comments: **VOTE: 5 Ayes – 0 Nays**

4. **AEP EASEMENT**

CM-21-40

Manager Sutherland stated this was for an AEP Easement for the area around Millbrook Park. The city had property along the hillside that AEP wanted to adjust, because the easement was from the 1940's and some of the new equipment they're installing needed more room, therefore they need an additional easement.

Councilman Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 5 Ayes – 0 Nays**

5. **CDBG**

CM-21-41

Manager Sutherland stated that this was an CDBG resolution request which would authorize the city to apply. He said the \$150,000 would be used toward the Pavilion project and the \$750,000 would be used for Munn's Run sewer replacement.

Councilman Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 5 Ayes – 0 Nays**

6. **POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) WATER QUALITY**

CM-21-42

Manager Sutherland said the last one was for the PFAS litigation.

Councilman Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 5 Ayes – 0 Nays**

Discussion –

City Liquor License – Mr. Martell was absent – no discussion

Martings Building for Pop-Up Businesses – Vice President Dunn asked if there was a plumbing update. Manager Sutherland said that the contractor was looking at it today and they've actually got another contractor in there to determine what the cost would be to have it cleaned up and painted also, but he hasn't seen any numbers yet.

New WTP Presentation from Strand & Associates – Chris Ruggles from Strand & Associates gave an updated presentation to the New Water Treatment plan. They were in the final design phase with construction to begin in 2022 and be completed by 2025. Water rates would need to be increased to offset the cost of the plant \$67,000,000.00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Dunne.

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk

For the full audio version of the Manager's Meeting, please go to www.portsmouthoh.org under City Manager 2021 "Audio".