

MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES
Portsmouth City Council Meeting on
July 13, 2020 – 8:05 p.m.

Members present:

Sean Dunne	1 st Ward
Charlotte Gordon	2 nd Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 rd Ward
Andrew McManus	4 th Ward
Edwin Martell	5 th Ward
Thomas K. Lowe	6 th Ward (Absent)

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

1. **Wilson Street Alley Vacation** **CM-20-37**

Manager Sutherland said there was a plat attached to the Council Letter that explained what they were wanting. He believed that they were trying to purchase land from the Scioto County Land Bank and there was an alley in between this property and the property they currently own.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

2. **PACE Committee Appointment** **CM-20-38**

Manager Sutherland said this was the appointment to that PACE Committee for Mr. Sutherland and Community Development Director Tracy Shearer.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

3. **Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area** **CM 20-39**

Manager Sutherland said that he attached a copy of the draft application and the way the law was written, he had to apply to City Council and once that is complete, the city will move to the next step. He asked Council to forward any changes prior to the next meeting because it will take time to draft it.

Vice President Dunne asked about the qualified permit holders but then realized he had it correct. Mayor Johnson asked if there could be other qualified businesses if they were to open a new business after the ordinance is enacted. Manager Sutherland replied “yes” and that basically once it was put in place, if someone wanted to be a part of it, they would put a sign up in their business, but he will look into if it would take action from Council. Councilwoman Gordon asked what happened if someone was outside of that zone and another bar wanted to participate, Manager Sutherland replied that it could not be outside of that zone. She asked also how it would be enforced, Manager Sutherland said that everyone was willing to give it a try, but it would be re-evaluated after 5 years or possibly sooner, but if it got out of hand and wasn’t working it could be stopped.

Solicitor Haas asked if all of the businesses had been spoken to and Vice President Dunne stated that he had spoken to everyone on the list. He clarified that he hasn’t spoken to every business but not every business opts in, only the businesses with the sticker in the business window will be participating. Councilwoman Gordon had concerns about littering. VP Dunne stated that the language needed double checked to make certain of the businesses.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

4. Amend Section 1311.05 Occupying a condemned structure CM 20-40

Manager Sutherland stated that this changes the wording so that anyone hanging out on a condemned property could face penalties.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

5. Appropriation of Funds for Purchase of Drone for Police & Fire use CM-20-41

Manager Sutherland said that they last wind storm the city had that knocked the steeple off of a church on 5th & Washington Streets, he was able to observe a man that had a drone that was assessing the damage to the steeple, this could be done without climbing up into the steeple area. They determine that the left-over money from FEMA plus a little bit more money added to it could purchase one that the Fire Department would maintain but Police & Fire both would have access. Manager Sutherland believed that it would be a good investment.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

6. Human Rights Commission CM-20-42

Solicitor Haas stated that everything was ready, he just needed authorization to proceed with an Ordinance.

Vice President Dunne motioned to adopt alternative #1.

Mayor Johnson asked who appointed the commission and Solicitor Haas stated that Council would and that the Community Development Director would chair the meetings.

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

Discussion

- 1. Establishment of Art Committee** – Councilman Martell reviewed some ideas for the art committee, but was still working out the details. He stated that Dublin, Ohio had what had thought was the pinnacle of art within a city and they have their own public art committee as well. He said that the mission of a public art committee would be to compliment the current strategies of Economic Development. Tourism by enhancing neighborhood identity. Educating children and adults. Some of the benefits with public art were beautification, being inspired, engagement by bringing people together. Rethink assumption about the world and ourselves and could be a catalyst for enriching our lives and the community. This will remain in the discussion phase until more information was received.
- 2. Decriminalization of Marijuana** – Vice President Dunne said that they have seen racial disparity nationally in the enforcement of certain drug laws. Structurally the Criminal Justice System has worked to create a system of mass incarceration that specifically targeted young African Americans males and puts criminal records on people at a very young age and when they assess the problem nationally, they noticed a lop-sided enforcement of drug laws specifically marijuana. This would not legalize marijuana but decriminalize it. He would like legislation to move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Dunne.

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk