

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 Monday August 10, 2020
 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday August 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., at Shawnee State University Center. Council held the meeting at Shawnee State University in order to comply with the Governor’s order to social distance at least 6 feet apart.

Mayor Kevin E. Johnson called the meeting to order. A moment of silent prayer was observed followed by The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call showed the following members to be 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, City Clerk Diana Ratliff, Solicitor John Haas, and Auditor M. Trent Williams.

Councilman Lowe’s absence was excused on a motion by Vice President Dunne. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Regular Session of July 27, 2020 on a motion by Vice President Dunne. **The motion carried viva voce: VOTE: 5 ayes –0 nays.**

Vice President Dunne requested to add as 7(J) An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$155,712.00 from the ODNR Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Portsmouth Skatepark Project and to appropriate the funds into Community Development Fund No. 301.

Vice President Dunne requested to add as 7(K) An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$150,000.00 from the Ohio Development Services Agency Community Development Block Grant for the Portsmouth Skatepark Project and to appropriate the funds to Community Development Fund No. 243.

Vice President Dunne requested to add as 7(L) An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$27,890.00 from the ODNR NatureWorks Program for the Bannon Park Pickleball Court project and to appropriate the funds to Community Development Fund No. 301.

4 Items Added

Vice President Dunne requested to add as 7(M) A Resolution authorizing the removal of 10% pension pickup paid to the Police and Firemen’s Disability and Pension Fund by the City of Portsmouth, Ohio for members of IAFF Local 9 as a result of a new contract effective September 1, 2020.

The motion carried viva voce: VOTE: 4 ayes – 1 nay (K.E. Johnson).

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Due to the Governor’s mandate of only 10 persons in a meeting, the meeting was not open to the public - Questions were sent in ahead of time via email and read by Clerk Ratliff

Pastor Ryan Brown – Calvary Baptist Church 2306 Waller Street – He was concerned regarding the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area. He understood that the ordinance was to help businesses during the pandemic period of restrictions, but his concern was the open-ended duration. He does not want a drunken community that would not be confined to certain locations. He added that he knew that these seem to be extenuating circumstances, but believed that consistent, open-aired alcoholic consumption would not be a good thing for our city.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an authorizing the appropriation of \$6,500.00 for the appraisal of Spartan Municipal Stadium to be paid from CIP City Council Land Improvements Fund No. 301.101.5502.

Vice President Dunne moved that the Ordinance be passed.

Councilwoman Gordon asked what the estimated timeline was for this project? Vice President Dunne replied that it should be done sometime this year. He said the normal price for an estimate of a commercial property of this size would be about \$13,000, but this would be an abbreviated cost but will give an idea of what

**Ord. #38 2020
 Appraisal for
 design of
 renovations
 for Spartan
 Municipal
 Stadium**

could possibly be received from the public facilities grant and other grants as well. This estimate will need to be updated prior to applying for the actual grant.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the vacation of the alley located between 5544 and 5534 Wilson Avenue as requested by Matthew Reeder and Kimberly Reeder, and more fully described in the attached legal description, with the City of Portsmouth reserving all easements to this property.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitute a second reading.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, a second reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the establishment of Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA).

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitute a second reading.

Councilwoman Gordon asked if language could be added to include signage for the outlaid area of DORA so that people know when they're entering or leaving the established area. Vice President Dunne stated that he traveled to Middletown, Ohio which was the first Ohio municipality to have a DORA and they have signs which are at eye level and designed for people walking. He stated that the signs should be located by the Dog Park on Front Street side so that people won't be bringing drinks onto the College campus, also on the North side of Chillicothe Street and the East side of 3rd Street. He said it was interesting in Middletown because they had expanded their zone from the original lay-out but they hadn't updated their signs. Mrs. Gordon asked if all of the establishments had agreed to open their restrooms up to people who were participated? Mr. Dunne stated that he did not want to speak for the owners but they have been enthusiastic about the program. Mrs. Gordon asked if there had been a conversation with the Police Department and were they willing to enforce the law if people are outside the zone? Manager Sutherland replied "yes" and Mr. Dunne stated that they had met with Chief Brewer six weeks ago and if someone goes outside of the zone, it would become an open container summons and you would be violating the law. Mayor Johnson stated that he would like to hear from citizens because currently the comments have been a mix of pros and cons.

There were no further questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, a second reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$2,959.19 from FEMA Grant Fund No. 261 to be applied towards the purchase of a drone for the City.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitute a second reading.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, a second reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance enacting a new Chapter entitled the City of Portsmouth Human Rights Commission of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth.

Vice President Dunne motioned to amend the ordinance under "Authority and Power". He explained to Solicitor Haas the concern of filling all these different committees. He would like it to read as follows:

There is hereby created the City of Portsmouth Human Rights Commission, hereafter referred to as "the Commission," (add) **comprising the same members as those who sit on the City of Portsmouth's Fair Housing Board** and to be comprised of three (3) members. (Remove) ~~One member shall be the Director of Community Development or his or her designee for the City. The second member shall be appointed by the mayor. The third member shall be appointed by majority vote of council. Each member of the Commission shall serve a term of three years and until his or her successor has been appointed and qualified for office. With the exception of the Director of Community Development or his or her designee, members of the Commission shall be ineligible to be reappointed to succeed themselves for more than one additional three year term, unless the member is completing a term for which he or she was appointed to fill a mid-term vacancy. Every member shall have been a resident of the City for at least one year prior to appointment and shall continue to be a resident so~~

long as he or she shall serve as a member of the Commission. In the event of a vacancy, a replacement will be chosen by the appropriate appointing authority of that seat and will serve out the remainder of the vacant term.

The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, the Ordinance was amended.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitute a second reading.

There were no further questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, a second reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a federal grant in the amount of \$32,638.00 from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance funding, under the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program CFDA #16.034 specifically for the police department to prevent, prepare and respond to the coronavirus, establishing a dedicated account for this grant and appropriation of such funding as received. Pursuant to Council Rule 5, this legislation is requested to be passed as an emergency in accordance with Section 10 of the Charter for the City of Portsmouth in order to facilitate administration, daily operation and avoid practical and legal entanglements

Vice President Dunne motioned to suspend the three-reading rule.

The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the rule was suspended.

Vice President Dunne moved that this Ordinance be passed.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for, accept, and enter into a cooperative agreement for the planning of a new water treatment plant project between the City of Portsmouth and the Ohio Water Development Authority.

Vice President Dunne moved that this Resolution be adopted.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, the Resolution was adopted.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) for the financing of the design of the new water treatment plant.

Vice President Dunne moved that this Resolution be adopted.

Councilwoman Gordon asked if this was for the new water treatment plant that we need because it was a big problem and knew that a smaller problem had been tackled. Manager Sutherland stated that the current water treatment plant had reached its useful life and aggressive steps need taken to address it. He said the previous resolution adopted covered a different phase because the design would take a while due to the requirements from the Ohio EPA. He said basically the plan was to work out some issues as far as a treatment plan and then after that was established with the Ohio EPA, the final design stage would be entered. Mayor Johnson asked if this was just for the financing of the design and Mr. Sutherland replied that this was just for the design and not for the actual plant because that would be approximately \$40,000,000.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, the Resolution was adopted.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution emphasizing the opposition of racism at high school athletic events.

Vice President Dunne moved that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Dunne thanked the administration at the Portsmouth School system who have been very supportive as well as the efforts of City Council. He and Councilman Martell met with the Administration specifically Coach Gerald Cadogan who recently spoke to a previous Portsmouth High School athletic graduate in an interview and it was great to see that there was a coach at Portsmouth High School and an Administration that was looking after

Ord #39 2020
COVID Grant
for Police
Dept.

Res #13 2020
Enter into
Cooperative
Agreement for
planning new
water
treatment plant

Res #14 2020
Enter into
Cooperative
Agreement with
OWDA for
design of new
water
treatment plant

Res #15 2020
Opposition of
racism at High
School Athletic
Events

their students and student athletes. He believed that this was step two of a process that would take a while but they've received a lot of support from people on the school boards that want to pass motions to support this action. He thought that it would take a local effort to build that pressure to make an impact at a State level and it was a great step. It was great to work with the Portsmouth School system to develop the language.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, the Resolution was adopted.**

Clerk Ratliff advised Mayor Johnson that she had been getting messages that the sound was not working on the facebook site. Mayor Johnson asked the sound technician if he needed Council to take a five-minute recess to let him work out the kinks and he replied that it would be very helpful.

Recess

The role was called. **VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, a five-minute recess was approved at 6:40 p.m. Council reconvened at 6:46 with all still present.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$155,712.00 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Portsmouth Skatepark Project and the appropriation of the same to Community Development Fund No. 301.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitute a first reading

Auditor Williams asked Vice President Dunne if this needed passed sooner rather than later and if the project was running behind because of COVID? He added if you don't pass it tonight it wouldn't ruin anything but since you're already in the process, Council had the authority to waive the readings and pass the ordinance. Councilwoman Gordon said that we've accepted money before using this process and Auditor Williams replied "yes" typically Council would move to accept money especially if a project had already begun. Mayor Johnson said that he completely supported the project, but it was the process of adding the legislation to the agenda and voting to pass it without giving anyone a chance to express their feelings. He doesn't know anyone who would say "no" to this or have a problem with the project, but Council would be passing it without public input. He asked what it would hurt to put it on the agenda and waive the balance of the readings at the next meeting, he liked this process for its transparency. Mr. Williams stated that it wouldn't hurt anything. Vice President Dunne stated that there was a meeting this week between the company and the Army Corp of Engineers and he doesn't believe construction would start that quickly. Mr. Williams stated that all Council was doing is accepting the funds, you've already accepted the grant and you're already in the middle of the process. Mrs. Gordon explained to Mayor Johnson that the vote was not about the project, it would just be for accepting the money.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, a first reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$150,000.00 from the Ohio Development Services Agency Community Development Block Grant for the Portsmouth Skatepark Project and the appropriation of the same to Community Development Fund No. 243.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitute a first reading.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, a first reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$27,890.00 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks Program for the Bannon Park Pickleball Court project and the appropriation of the same to Community Development Fund No. 301.

Vice President Dunne motioned that this constitute a first reading.

Councilwoman Gordon asked if this was a project that had been bid and was it ready to move forward? Manager Sutherland replied but it was muffled by his mask. Councilman McManus stated that he wasn't sure what the public would be upset about? Council would be accepting money to build something for the community and didn't agree with giving it two more weeks because he's not sure what reason the public would have to say to not accept the money. Mayor Johnson stated he felt the same way about this legislation as the previous two, he had no problem with the projects, but it's the procedure in adding legislation to the agenda without the public being able to see it. Auditor Williams stated that was the point, it's procedural and not necessarily in this one but in the Skatepark project, procedurally everything had been done prior to beginning the project and that had not been done which was why there's an urgency to actually get the I's and T's dotted and crossed. Also, because

we're so far in it's not anything that couldn't wait two more weeks but it does need to be done expeditiously. He said he didn't know where they were with this project, he was mainly speaking about the Skatepark project.

He advised that this legislation and the ODNR Skatepark project legislation, referred to the Community Development Fund #301, both need to be amended to Capital Improvement Fund #301. He said it was coming out of the Community Development account within the CIP fund but it should be changed. It could also read Capital Improvement Fund #301 within the Community Development account, either way.

Councilwoman Gordon stated that she was confused because when she was appointed to Council last year, she was told that when money was being accepted, it was certainly alright to waive the three-reading rule to get it passed even though it was added the same night. Auditor Williams stated that in the rules of Council it is alright to waive the readings anytime you're accepting money and the Mayor's point was that of transparency when adding and passing the same night and he agreed that it was something that should try to be avoided, but was certainly not a problem in doing basic housekeeping with accepting money and waiving the readings. Councilwoman Gordon stated that Council had done this many time before. Councilman McManus stated that he understood that the Skatepark would take longer to build but he wasn't sure how long a pickleball court would take to construct and believed that the reading rules should be waived. Auditor Williams stated that the Skatepark had been discussed many times in Council meetings, but this was the first time that a Pickleball Court had been brought up. He asked Manager Sutherland where the money was coming from and he replied that the money was in the Capital Improvement Program. Mayor Johnson stated that he did not remembered discussing this project at all. Vice President Dunne stated that this was the same funding source that helped the Dog Park and that the Skatepark had been discussed from the beginning with topics such as: liability of skating, where it would be located, the name of the park, there were many items discussed.

Vice President Dunne motioned to amend the wording in the preamble and Section I of the legislation from "Community Development Fund #301 to Capital Improvement Fund #301"

The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, the Ordinance was amended.

Councilman McManus motioned to suspend the three-reading rule.

The role was called. VOTE: 3 ayes– 2 nays (K.E. Johnson, S. Dunne), the rule was defeated.

Vice President Dunne motioned that this constitute a first reading.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, a first reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution authorizing the removal of 10% pension pickup paid to the Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Fund by the City of Portsmouth, Ohio for members of IAFF Local 9 as a result of a new contract effective September 1, 2020.

Vice President Dunne moved that this Resolution be adopted.

Mayor Johnson said that he didn't know how he felt about the legislation because it was also added tonight.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, the Resolution was adopted.**

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Due to the Governor's mandate of only 10 persons in a meeting, the meeting was not open to the public - Questions were sent in ahead of time via email and read by Clerk Ratliff

Collin M. Finn – Student at Miami University - Political Science finncm@miamioh.edu

1. Do you support preventing a church from using an open-air public park if they practiced safe social distancing and masks wearing?
2. Do you support changing the meetings up to allow questions and answers at the end of every meeting for better transparency?

Res #16 2020
Removal of
10% Pension
Pickup paid
to Police and
Fire Pension

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

City Clerk’s Report – Clerk Ratliff reported the following:

1. She received via email on August 3, 2020 from the Auditor’s office, the following summary statements of the Combined MTD/YTD reports for the period ending July 31, 2020: Expense, Revenue and Fund.
2. She received an Oath of Office on the following: Jeremy German and Shane Spriggs as Police Officers
3. She wished Mayor Johnson a Happy Birthday.

The City Clerk’s report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Vice President Dunne. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays.**

City Manager’s Report – Manager Sutherland had no report.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Johnson reported the following:

1. He asked Council to address the final two questions from a Portsmouth resident:
#7 – Are you willing to show up and support peaceful protest between Police and Citizens
#8 – Are you willing to use your position to create unity within our community.
2. He acknowledged Vice President Dunne’s service on the Shade Tree Commission, but he had decided to resign his position on the Tree Commission as he pursues other obligations. He appointed Councilman Andrew McManus to replace him on the commission.

**Appointment
of Andrew
McManus to
the Tree
Commission**

The Mayor’s report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Vice President Dunne. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays.**

Solicitor Haas Report – Solicitor Haas had no report.

Auditor Williams Report – Mr. Williams reported the following:

1. He gave the revenue numbers for the month of July. The City collected \$1,147,200 for the General Fund and this July vs. last July was +\$177,471 and for the year -\$32,473 compared to the same month last year. The city ended June at approximately \$150,000 down for the year and July had improved to only -\$32,473. The total tax collections which included the Capital Improvement Fund, the total collections were: \$1,303,642 which was +\$133,348 over last July and for the year we’re down only -\$37,213.
2. He wished Mayor Johnson a Happy Birthday.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward – Councilman Dunne reported the following:

1. He addressed the two questions that were posed:
Supporting a peaceful protest that included Police and members of the Community: He stated that it was far too abstract to say that he would support something like this unless he knew what the protests were based upon and what the unity was based upon. He said if there was a movement to create unity in our community to make us all friends of the Dallas Cowboys, he would certainly be opposed to that (laughter). He said not all unity was good and not all protests were good. He does believe that we could develop more unity based upon certain principles, and would be more interested in what was being protested.
2. He thanked Mayor Johnson for helping to host the event this coming Thursday August 13th at Spartan Municipal Stadium from 11-2 p.m. Lindy Infante Foundation “Sports in a Bag” program that will be handing out 400 bags to kids in our area and the bag would have a random rotation of either footballs, soccerballs or basketballs along with a jump rope and a pamphlet on doing certain exercises and the aim was to: 1. Keep kids active during remote learning times. 2. They recognize financial pressures that stop kids from playing sports and this would help to offset that. He was happy to be able to host the event because it was mainly in the Columbus area and they were very excited to be in Portsmouth.
3. He said that there were workers in restaurants and bars that very much supported the DORA district and will ask them to submit emails to Clerk Ratliff to comment on the topic.
4. He gave an update on the All-American City competition. He used his July salary to pay for part of a two-minute video for the presentation and his August salary will go towards T-shirts for participants in the presentation. He said that they’ve had their first rehearsal and thanked Councilman Martell for agreeing to be the emcee of the event and done a great job during the rehearsal. He said there will be many participants from various organizations, different types of groups that will be speaking about their project that was included in the application and in many ways Councilman Martell would be guiding them through that process.
5. The Skatepark Company will be having a meeting and this process will be moving forward.

6. He stated that one of his stops when he traveled to Middletown was the White Dog Distillery who wholeheartedly support their DORA program; they gave him the name of an individual who worked with downtown Middletown to answer any specific questions.
7. He was contacted by a legislative assistant from former Governor Richard Cody of New Jersey about the Resolution to counter racism in High School sports and believed that it wasn't just Ohio that might be lacking in policies for this topic and he's hoping with the adoption of the Resolution, that will help make change in Ohio and elsewhere.

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Charlotte Gordon reported the following:

1. She responded to the questions that were posed: She agreed with Councilman Dunne in that it would depend on what the protest was about, however the one peaceful protest that Portsmouth had with the Police, she participated and handed out water. The unity of a community was paramount and she felt that she's spent her career doing that and volunteers at the 14th Street Community Center twice a week to help with programming. She agreed that people need to be rolling up their sleeves and getting out of their comfort zone to meet people that they hadn't met previously.
2. She wished Mayor Johnson a Happy Birthday.
3. She thanked President Bauer and Shawnee State University for providing this great room.
4. She thanked Manager Sutherland for helping with an AEP pole.
5. She received complaints about lots on 4th Street, trash in an alley and a dumpster that was overflowing and attracting rodents in the 1200 block alley of 14th Street, those complaints were passed on to the City Manager.

3rd Ward – Councilman Kevin E. Johnson reported the following:

1. He addressed the final two questions:
 - a. #7 – He said he felt the same way Councilman Dunne and Councilwoman Gordon and it would depend on what the protest was about. He said it would be a case by case answer, however he very much supports the men and women who serve as Police Officers and if he were to be involved in a public display of support, it would be to support our men and women in Blue.
 - b. #8 – He said if he were able to use his position as not only Mayor, Councilman, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Citizen, Neighbor or Friend, he would use whatever that position may be to create unity and would always welcome that opportunity.
2. He thanked Andy Gedeon of the Health Department for assisting in an issue of basement flooding.
3. He thanked Manager Sutherland, Service Director Jack Tackett and the Service Department on some of the recent cleanup and weed issues that they've had and appreciated all they do for the city.

4th Ward – Councilman McManus reported the following:

1. He addressed the questions presented:
 - a. He said his answer would be the same as the other Councilmembers as far as the protest, it would depend on what the protest was about.
 - b. Unity within the community – He said in the last few weeks that was very hard to do but he would love nothing more than to have unity across the board with the community. It was a puzzle to him but he will continue to look at and try to figure out different issues and how to unify us as people.
2. He thanked Mayor Johnson for asking him to be on the Portsmouth Shade Tree Commission and he was looking forward to it as it is something new and exciting.
3. He thanked Manager Sutherland and the City workers regarding a request for lots to be cleaned up and various other things. He said that Manager Sutherland always gets thanked by Council for these items, but what he didn't see was that it was truly helping people when it comes to stuff like this. He received a call from a lady that said she didn't have a lot of money but she wanted to have a voice too. He said that's what this job was about, helping people and not fighting. He appreciated how quickly the city handled those issues.
4. He said he was happy with the Code Enforcement Reports but hoped that they could be expanded at some point to include dates when citations were sent out and he knew Councilman Dunne had spoken about different ideas to be included.
5. He thanked the Portsmouth Health Department and EMA Director Larry Mullins who have been very good with the public in providing daily new COVID updates and believed that Mr. Mullins was being transparent. He said that he buried his Grandmother this past Saturday due to COVID and was very angry because people had called him concerning remarks made by the Scioto County Commissioners talking about different hoaxes and conspiracy theories. He explained that people with COVID were not counted more than once, even if you've tested positive again and again; but what these remarks do was stir the pot and create doubt and was disappointed in that language. He doesn't want to be angry because that doesn't solve anything, but we've been talking about masks for months and he believed that when our schools do finally open, masks will help keep the schools open and keep our businesses open; and was very happy with the way information was being given out to the public.

5th Ward – Councilman Martell reported the following:

1. He wished Mayor Johnson a Happy Birthday.
2. He addressed the two questions:
 - a. He hated to repeat what the others have said but it definitely does depend on what was being protested and had attended some peaceful protests especially here in Portsmouth.
 - b. He had been and would continue to use his leadership to provide unity within the community. He had asked for another meeting with Police Chief Brewer and hopefully in that meeting they could speak about ideas to provide unity.
3. He thanked the Portsmouth High School Administration and Coaches and was very happy and proud that the Resolution opposing racism at athletic events was adopted. He said some of the stories were horrible and disgusting and he hoped that there were a lot of schools that were willing to come forward with Portsmouth on the road to the State House and he looked forward to it.
4. He thanked Councilman Dunne for asking him to emcee the All-American City award and said it was a great time the first go around and hopefully he will do it justice.

6th Ward – Councilman Lowe had no report due to absence.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Dunne.

City Clerk

Mayor