

**MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES**  
**Portsmouth City Council Meeting on**  
**October 14, 2019 – 8:49 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
Jerrold Albrecht	4 <sup>th</sup> Ward
Gene Meadows	5 <sup>th</sup> Ward (Absent)
Thomas K. Lowe	6 <sup>th</sup> Ward

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

1. **Paving Appropriation** **CM-19-70**

Removed item and added to City Council Agenda due to time restraints.

2. **Trash Can Purchase** **CM-19-71**

Manager Sutherland stated that there was a back log of folks needing replacement trash cans and lids. Councilman Dunne asked about the “M – Mich-i-can” located on the riverfront. Apparently, the trash cans didn’t get replaced and people have been tossing their trash down in there which is fine but it needs cleaned out and new cans installed. He will talk to him further about it after the meeting.

Councilman Albrecht motioned to adopt alternative #1.

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

3. **Master Plan Appropriation** **CM-19-72**

He distributed the print out of the master plan which they are splitting the cost with the Scioto Foundation. There were two firms interviewed for the master plan and in the discussion, it was brought up about implementing new zoning laws and both firms adamantly said that zoning should wait until the master plan was completed because it would defeat the purpose. He had spoken with Auditor Williams and he pointed out that instead of transferring the money into Fund 301, he could pay it out of the General Fund 101 and he would get the Solicitor the appropriate account number for the ordinance.

Councilman Albrecht moved to adopt alternative #2 modifying the ordinance to show the General Fund being used in lieu of the Capital Improvement Fund 301.

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

4. **Amendment of Codified Ordinances 945.01** **CM-19-73**

Manager Sutherland stated that there was a proposed ordinance attached and the changes were highlighted. Acting Mayor Johnson said that he had read over it and he had found language regarding smoking and that if you smoked, it had to be at least 25 feet from any of the playground equipment. He also brought up the hours on a sign at Tracy Park, however that sign is leaning pretty bad. Manager Sutherland stated that it can be modified to show dusk until dawn which was the same as the cemetery. Solicitor Haas stated that when he was younger, they had football practice until dusk at Mound Park and at one point a few years ago, they were doing movies in the Park. He said Tracy Park sometimes had bands that go into the evening but he believed that they were by permit. Clerk Ratliff read from 945.04 “except when certain one-time special circumstances are approved in advance, by the City Manager.” Manager Sutherland said he didn’t have a problem with changing the hours. Councilman Albrecht had a concern about the upcoming Christmas Light display. Clerk Ratliff stated that it would be covered under the previous verbiage. Solicitor Haas stated that

it could be a discretionary call by the Police Officer if someone was in the park doing something they shouldn't be doing, but he believed that dawn until dusk would be alright. Manager Sutherland stated that there was a problem with the current ordinance because in the penalty section it cited section 945.02 which was a list of the parks and not the general rules.

Councilwoman Gordon asked why the use of metal detectors was prohibited. Manager Sutherland stated it was because people go in there and dig holes and then leave them.

Councilman Albrecht moved to adopt alternative #2 to modify the legislation to show the hours of all parks as dawn until dusk.

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

5. **Buckeye Elite Basketball Tournament**

**Discussion**

Manager Sutherland stated that Acting Mayor Johnson wanted to discuss the Buckeye Elite Basketball Tournament. Mayor Johnson stated that \$2,500 was already included in the budget for the year, however this group brings basketball teams from all over the country, in fact, Indiana's coach flew in out to Minford and stayed at the Holiday Inn a few years ago. They bring in the premier High School Basketball players from all over, also college scouts come from all over the country to watch recruits. The area restaurants and hotel see a big increase in business and he believed it to be a win win for the community. He said that they lost a major sponsor because that particular sponsor had cut back on sponsoring events. He asked Council to consider adding \$1,000 to the \$2,500 for a total of \$3,500 to help this organization. He said it would be a one-time donation and then it could go back to the \$2,500. He believed that this would help the organization get additional sponsors.

Councilman Dunne said that he thought it was a great idea and it was something Portsmouth should be very proud of and it was encouraging kids to play basketball. Mr. Johnson advised that it was a three-day event and he believed the admission was \$10.00 to watch quality basketball. All of Council agreed to allow the additional funding.

Solicitor Haas stated that he would put together an Ordinance for the additional funding.

6. **Proposed Scioto County Historical Museum**

**Discussion**

Manager Sutherland introduced John McHenry to speak about using the annex part of the Marting's Building. **John McHenry – 299 Essman-Sugarcamp Road South Webster, OH** – He represented a group of 11 members and they call themselves Scioto County Heritage Museum. They began about 6 months ago celebrating the heritage of the Portsmouth and Scioto County communities in the old Portsmouth High School Gymnasium and lined all 4 walls with their personal collection of historical artifacts. It was an impressive display of items from bygone days that educated students and adults. Some visitors learned of the 1968 Wheelersburg tornado which was displayed by Portsmouth Public Library, Dave Fannin displayed an impressive collection of Fire Department material. Mr. McHenry stated that he distributed materials on Portsmouth's participation in the Spanish/American war; Portsmouth raised Company-H and participated in the invasion of Puerto Rico. Rose Mowery displayed memorabilia from Hillcrest Children's Home, Dr. William Daehler exhibited materials related to the medical profession and his love of music, Jim Kennedy displayed sports memorabilia, Dave Stone showed pictures of drawings of early buildings, Linda Donaldson and Sharon Bender each had displays, Paul O'Neil had a cornucopia of items that highlighted everything from the 1937 flood etc. there was a rich heritage in Scioto County. At the end of the show everyone started packing up and realized that they were just packing up, taking it home, putting it out of site until the next exhibit and someone joked "you know when we die, our kids are just gonna put this on ebay!" Right then it was evident that Portsmouth needed a museum that celebrated the rich historical record that is Portsmouth and Scioto County. At that point a dedicated group came together and they meet every second Thursday of the month at Shawnee State's library. He said a noted Sociologist said "remember the past and carry it into the future." Those who live here will be proud and those just visiting or passing through, the history will be highlighted. He asked for Council to consider letting them use the Marting's Annex for the museum. They have toured other sites around the area but felt

this building would serve them best. He would like to work with Solicitor Haas to come up with a proposal for Council's consideration. Solicitor Haas stated that heating and air conditioning might be an issue because he thought to access heat and air in the annex, it would have to be turned on for the whole building. Mr. McHenry stated they went from top to bottom of what would be needed to bring it up to code. They are also working on becoming a 501c-3. Solicitor Haas stated that they could set up a lease like they do for Branch Rickey and add in provisions that if someone came along and wanted to buy it, what would happen, all of those issues would need to be worked out.

7. **Toy Trains**

**Discussion**

**Michael Raies – 2915 Noddin Way Portsmouth** – Solicitor Haas asked Dr. Raies to give Council some sort of idea of how the trains would be used because the issues with Main Street Portsmouth that he recalled were insurance and whether the trains would be street legal. Dr. Raies said that he would like to offer the trains to be used during WinterFest and he knew that there were specific streets that the Segways could only be used on. Dr. Raies was wanting something similar to what the city had for the Segways. Acting Mayor Johnson stated that he would like to have it be issued by a permit process, designating particular streets only and coordinate everything with the Chief of Police. Councilwoman Gordon asked if there were any types of inspections that the trains had to have, Dr. Raies said he didn't believe a toy vehicle would have to be inspected, but he would check into it further. Council was in agreement to allow him to go through a permit process for the trains.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Lowe.

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk