

MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES
Portsmouth City Council Meeting on
November 13, 2017 7:07 p.m.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson had ask Manager Allen to put an item on the conference agenda but there was some confusion. At the last meeting he mentioned that he had attended the Ohio 6th and 2nd Districts collaboration forum with Manager Allen and one of the presenters was Lawrence County Commissioner Bill Pratt and he indicated that they were now live streaming their meetings on facebook. He said that Mr. Pratt advised for everyone to be a “thief” with respect of finding a good idea from another jurisdiction or government and to use it. He would like to recommend to Council that we give authority to the City Clerk to look into the cost of the camera that would be required and the hook up to live stream on facebook all of our future meetings. He said live television would not be happening with so many people on facebook and felt this was the route to go as it was inexpensive. He requested that Diana research and check with Lawrence County to see how they set up their system and what the restrictions were, what type of camera, what bond rate they required. He believed it to be important to expand the capability of Council and the city to be able to communicate with the citizens. He requested that Clerk Ratliff report back at the next meeting.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to move forward with receiving cost estimates on live streaming City Council meetings on facebook.

There were no further questions or comments: **VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays**

5. **Non-Union raises & salary Ordinance** – Councilman Meadows addressed the non-union raises and that he was disappointed when he received the email that went to his law office email address in which he had asked that it not be used for city business. He’s concerned about not dealing with the non-union raises because if it’s not dealt with tonight it would not get on the conference agenda until the next meeting and then that would put the first reading on December 11th and would not allow enough time to get these raises in place. He didn’t feel it appropriate for Council to waive the readings on such a large financial ordinance and even at the second reading where the readings might be considered to be waived it would be the last meeting of the year which meant it would be after the payroll was cut-off and the employees wouldn’t get their back pay until way after the first of the year. He wasn’t sure if they could get the back pay once we crossed into 2018.

Councilman Meadows motioned for the Solicitor’s office to prepare an ordinance giving the non-union employees a 10% raise this year effective January 1, 2017 and then further proposed that they have raises given to them each year based upon the largest rate given to the union. It has been uncalled for that these employees have went since 2009 without a raise and we need to fix it and whatever the highest union raise is, the following year the non-union will get the same rate. He also requested that the back pay be gotten to these employees by December 15th.

There were no further questions or comments: **VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson moved that the Solicitor move forward with legislation concerning items 2 – 9 to be discussed at our next legislative meeting. Everything but the budget would be covered.

1. **The 2018 Budget** – no action taken.
2. **Acceptance of Dispatchers labor agreement**
3. **Non-Union medical insurance provisions** – Manager Allen said the Non-Union was paying \$25 per month single and \$50 per month family and they will be increased to 8% which would be about \$80 single and \$170 family. He said that everyone’s deductibles will go up and there was a cash offset to assist in them being able to handle the higher deductibles. He said every contract had a kick-back that said if the non-union doesn’t do this, then the union doesn’t have to do it.

4. **Benefits for uniformed officers outside of bargaining unit (life insurance)**
6. **Transfer of \$3,470.20 from Unclaimed Monies Fund to General Fund.**
7. **Health Department request for new fund #258 Rural Health Opioid Program**
8. **Resolution to accept two pieces of property donated to the city.**
9. **Acceptance of Firefighters labor agreement**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept Alternative #1.

There were no further questions or comments: **VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk