

# Manager's Conference Minutes

## Portsmouth City Council

March 10, 2014

### 1. The 2014 City of Portsmouth Budget

CM - 14-11

It was determined that they will meet to discuss the Budget on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.

VOTE: 6 Ayes - 0 Nays

### 2. Request from Judge Kegley and Judge Mowery

CM - 14-12

Judge Mowery stated that he was an advocate for the Court Employees (27 total) to ask for changes and increases as the last increase was in either 2008 or 2009. They are requesting a 6% increase in wages and the authority on the increased cost of health insurance is statutory that the increase not be passed on to the court and court employees. He stated that he did receive a copy of the budget but hadn't had time to review it thoroughly but he and Judge Kegley intend to work with City Council and the City Manager. The Court is aware of the financial condition of the City and he stated that they are willing to remain "Status Quo" at this point, but would like feedback from Council regarding the increased cost of the Health insurance, as a number of the court employees are protected statutorily from that cost being passed to them. He does not want to have the employees have no increase in wages but yet have an increase in the cost of health care.

Manager Allen advised City Council that he budgeted the insurance cost for court employees the same as all the other employees. There's a portion of the court coming out of the General Fund so if we make this change that will affect the General Fund.

Mayor Sturgill asked Judge Mowery to clarify to Council that if Council tells the Court "no" due to the city's plight, isn't it in fact that the Courts can determine their own budget and it would not be up to Council.

Judge Mowery stated that's his understanding and that's correct within perimeters. Currently our employees pay \$25 for single and \$50 for family for Health Insurance which he considers a token. Some of the employees of the court as he interprets that statute, to be *all* costs, not just the cost of the insurance, but deductibles and co-pays and

*all* cost for the Judges, Court personnel, Clerk and Deputy Clerks are to be covered by the legislative authority. It has not been done that way in the past but hopes there can be an agreement reached between the Legislative Authority and the Courts.

**3. OCJS JAG PPD Vehicle Replacement**

**CM - 14-13**

Chief Ware stated that this was a matter of housekeeping; that the grant had been audited and they were waiting for this legislation so that it can be properly closed out.

Vice Mayor Johnson proposed alternative #1 to accept and authorize the preparation of the legislation.

**VOTE: 6 Ayes - 0 Nays**

**4. Fund transfer to correct payment error**

**CM - 14-14**

Chief Ware stated that this too was a matter of housekeeping; that there was a clerical error that needed to be corrected.

Councilman Saddler proposed alternative #1 to accept and authorize the preparation of the legislation.

**VOTE: 6 Ayes - 0 Nays**

Adjourned 8:05