

**MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES**  
**Portsmouth City Council Meeting on**  
**April 24, 2017 8:04**

All members of Council were present, Solicitor Haas, City Manager Allen, Auditor Williams and City Clerk Ratliff.

1. Mound Park Tennis Courts

CM-17-33

Manager Allen said that he’d met with and had conversations with the Mound Park Pickle Ball league. He said he thought there were 8 courts but the design looks like there were only 6 courts. That league had raised \$20,000 which was enough money to re-surface, re-stain and re-stripe the south courts for pickle ball as well as moving the netting and setting new posts. They do not have enough money to fix the fence all the way around or the other tennis courts, but he had received an estimate on the tennis courts and it was approximately \$7,000 to be re-sealed and stained. He said by appropriating \$45,000 which would include the league giving the city \$20,000, it would only actually cost the city \$25,000. The Water Department would put in a drinking fountain and a hydrant and we would have all new tennis courts and pickle ball courts with a new fence around it.

Mayor Kalb reiterated that it would be half of the tennis courts which would be converted into pickle ball courts and the other half would remain tennis courts. Councilwoman Aeh said there was a discrepancy in the amounts because it’s showing \$50,000 and Councilman Kevin W. Johnson said they would provide us with the money they raised for us to spend, so it would be a combination of ours and theirs.

Councilman Lowe commented that in the Manager’s report, it reflected their donation of \$20,000 but in the leagues report it said it was their plan to seek \$15,000 from SOMC first and after securing the money, they would ask for \$15,000 from the Scioto Foundation and the other \$10,000 responsibility would be the Mound Park Pickle Ball league. He said it didn’t make sense because they were going back where they said they had \$20,000 but in their plan it only shows \$10,000. Manager Allen said he had met with them last year and at that time he had told them that he didn’t have the money in the budget but if they could raise that money, he would support them and they were able to raise \$20,000. They met again and ask permission to redo the plans but they didn’t have enough money to fix all of the fencing. He explained that he would ask Council for money for the fencing and re-surfacing the tennis courts. At the time they thought it was half of what their quote was, which was \$31,000 but thought the price was \$14,000 to re-surface and re-stain. He said they originally had \$10,000 and someone matched their \$10,000 for a total of \$20,000.

Councilman Meadows ask if some of the High Schools were using the tennis courts and Manager Allen replied that Clay High School was but they were building their own to be used next year. Mr. Meadows ask what Pickle Ball was and Manager Allen said that it was kind of like Tennis with a whiffle ball, he said they play it a lot at the Life Center and the gym was filled. Auditor Williams said that it was primarily older people that had been tennis players all of their lives but had settled into a less demanding sport. Councilman Lowe said that he saw this as another example, because we have infrastructure problems and we’re putting Pickle Ball courts in and he looked at it like a waste of money and that they needed streets paved not pickle ball courts. Mayor Kalb said that if we’re not making improvements, we’re not going to improve the infrastructure because we need to offer stuff in the way of recreation and city improvements or we would not go anywhere and we would have paved streets with nobody living on them. Mr. Lowe then said, he wanted pickle ball courts in Sciotoville and Mayor Kalb told him to get a group together and raise the funds.

Councilman Kevin E. Johnson ask if it was a group of individuals or a school/organization, Manager Allen said it was a group of individuals and a person who wished to remain anonymous. Mr. Lowe ask why they couldn’t just buy their own property and do their own thing and Councilwoman Aeh said that she liked the idea that they were improving our park. Councilman Meadows said this was the opportune time to show the public that we’re working to improve Mound Park and Mayor Kalb said

that he doesn't mind helping those that try to help themselves and just not come and say "this is what we need, build it".

Manager Allen said the fence was our responsibility anyway. Councilman Kevin E. Johnson ask what we were going to do when other individuals come to us and want us to designate part of the park for example as a rugby area or croquet area. Mrs. Aeh said that if we weren't using it, then absolutely.

Councilman Kevin E. Johnson said that his son plays basketball at the Life Center and the pickle ballers are not real sharing individuals. He said that some of them were very rude to the young people playing basketball and that he had witnessed it first-hand, so he hoped that they would be good neighbors and treat the young people right that would come there to play.

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

There were no further questions or comments: **VOTE: 5 Ayes – 1 Nays (T. Lowe)**

## 2. Home Rehabilitation Projects

CM-17-34

Manager Allen said that Fire Chief Bill Raison was associated with the Reach mission project which was a work camp ministry that does community work projects. This summer they were scheduled to work in Kentucky but that didn't work out and he talked to him about doing the projects in Portsmouth. They were scheduled to work June 11<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup> and it will be approximately 200 youth and adults. They would be working on between 20-25 homes depending on the level of work the houses needed and the money available. There was a meeting with the schools and they are on board as a partner to allow this group to stay in the school and to use their cafeterias. They had done it once before in 2010 and in 2010, CHIP grant money was used to supplement, but that's not available this year. He's requesting the city contribute \$7,500 out of the general fund to the Community Development Department and the Reach Mission would raise money to supplement that in order to work on owner occupied houses which meet certain income thresholds.

Councilwoman Aeh said she had a bit of an issue with this type of thing, because next door to her was a Habitat for Humanity House which had been a condemned house and after Habitat took over, it was in worse shape than it had ever been. She questioned whether anyone went back to inspect if the homes that had been worked were being taken care of? She said she was all in favor of helping someone but we're spending taxpayer's money and Habitat for Humanity spends donated money. She would like to see what they did in 2010, what addresses they did and see if the property was being taken of. She's not in favor of spending taxpayer's money on someone who doesn't take care of their property.

Mayor Kalb ask who choose the properties that would be done. Manager Allen replied that Community Development Director Tracy Shearer gave them a list of people's houses who had shown interest in the CHIP program. He said churches and business would be donating money and materials. This was an opportunity and we've worked hard to improve the community, help people, help the housing stock and help the beautification of this community. He doesn't know what houses were done in 2010 because there were no records when he came to work here.

Mayor Kalb said the administrative portion of this project was however the Reach mission project was setup and the money would go towards materials. Mrs. Aeh said that there were some churches last year in which their young people came and redid the deck for people that live in the Habitat House, they worked hard using their time and energy and the deck had not been taken care of. She said there was no follow up to go back and look to see if their projects were taken care of. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson said that there was always exceptions to the rule and under the former CHIP program, he knew some of those people who had been deprived of those funds. Mr. Johnson said that Habitat realizes that they have an issue but he hadn't seen that it was a consistent problem with their properties nor had it been a consistent problem with former beneficiaries of the CHIP funds. Mr. Johnson ask Manager Allen how much money we missed out on in CHIP funding for 2017 and Manager Allen replied \$400,000 and a lot of people depended on the CHIP funding because it helped with roof repair,

replacing windows, and winterizing but as far as he was concerned \$7,500 was a great investment on the number of homes they would be looking at. This is an opportunity to use other people's skills and labor, plus the donated materials. \$7,500 wouldn't even help demolish one building much less rehabilitate 25 homes.

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

Councilman Meadows asked Manager Allen if we had the money and he replied "yes". He ask Manager Allen for his opinion and if this investment would bring business and people to spend their money in Portsmouth. Manager Allen said they would be staying at the High School and eating food out of the cafeteria. This is an effort to improve the housing stock for people who own houses but can't afford to fix them. Solicitor Haas ask Council if they were ready to give up on the community, because if you're ready to give up, don't fund it, but if you're willing to try, he believed this to be a great investment.

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

3. **CDBG 2017 Application**

**CM-17-35**

Manager Allen said this was the CDBG application for fiscal year 2017. The program has been changed because we used to get about \$80,000 every year and now it had changed to every two years. He said the money would be used for lights and security cameras in Mound Park and any leftover money to make other improvements.

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

Councilman Lowe ask if this was geared to Mound Park only or all the parks. Manager Allen said Mound Park only.

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

4. **5141 Coolidge Avenue demolishing**

Manager Allen said that there was a public health issue that needed to be cleaned up. The individual was currently in jail, but it was a nuisance that needed cleanup and removed. The money for the cleanup hadn't been appropriated but there were steps Council had to take. Solicitor Haas stated that they had this man in court and after he was sited and they tried to work out some different options with him, one of which was for the city to clean up the property, but he wouldn't agree. He said the home was burned and it was not salvageable and the individual had been living in a truck which had no electricity. He said that he couldn't even begin to describe to Council how bad this property was. He said there was a dead dog lying there which he won't bury because he said that BCI was going to investigate how it died. He was evaluated by Shawnee Mental Health who determined that he was competent and the man was given a warning and time to remove anything valuable. The cost was \$8,000 that would come from the General Fund but the City would also waive the fee at the transfer station. He said according to Code Section 1313.06 which stated that we cannot take money from the general fund to abate a nuisance property without Council approval. Manager Allen said that when we clean a property up, we try to assess the taxes if it was possible.

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 8:35 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk