

MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES
Portsmouth City Council Meeting on
July 24, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Kalb addressed Manager Allen regarding the anonymous letter which Chief Ware had addressed in a letter to the City Manager which he had shared with Councilmembers. He also addressed the Parking situation at Portsmouth High School and questioned why the whole North side of Gallia Street along the Portsmouth Coliseum was handicapped parking and why it was a permanent handicap only zone. He said that he was certain the church across the street would use that parking area if it weren't handicapped parking only. Chief Ware said it wasn't something that was done by the city and he thought it was done prematurely when they built that facility and that it was not properly marked to enforce it. He added that he would not be opposed to it being game day only handicapped parking and that once the curbs were re-painted he thought they could correct it. Councilwoman Aeh asked if there could be a sign put out for handicapped parking during school activities only. Chief Ware said that it could be worked out based on ADA requirements and State codes.

1. ODOT Agreement US 23 and State Route 73 CM-17-46

Manager Allen said that previously ODOT had resurfaced SR 140, SR 139 and both section of US 52 and had notified the city of their intent to resurface US 23 and SR 73 inside the corporation limits next year, but we had requested that it be pushed back one year for financial reasons. He said and this would acknowledge our intent to participate and additional legislation would be added in the future with an estimated match. He said that there was a possibility that this would get pushed back another year because we're working with ODOT on the intersection of 3rd and 4th Street on Gay Street.

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

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

2. Munn’s Run Wall Repair CM-17-47

Manager Allen said this was not budgeted but the City needed to appropriate \$30,000 to repair a wall on Munn’s Run that was underneath a structure at 1733 Valley Street; the property was purchased by the Craig family in 1949 and he was not sure why a structure was allowed to be built into the easement and on top of the channel wall but it had been done. The wall was the responsibility of the city which was done in 1941 as part of the WPA project. If the wall doesn't get stabilized it could undermine the structure at that location. He requested that \$30,000 be appropriated into account 101-116-5509.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept Alternative #1. Councilman Meadows stated that it needed to be done in dry weather and if we don't suspend the readings it would be mid-September and the weather would be getting wetter by then. He requested that it be pushed through to get it done in August. Mr. Johnson withdrew his motion and motioned to accept Alternative #2 requesting to make it an emergency measure to waive the three readings.

Councilman Lowe asked if Manager Allen got the other report on another location on Valley Street in which he had taken pictures and sent to him. Manager Allen said he wasn't sure and Mr. Lowe said that he would re-send the email. Manager Allen said that this had been a particularly wet summer and they had anticipated obtaining a permit and taking some city crews in there to clean it out, they had also tried to get the National Guard to come and clean it out. The National Guard wanted to participate in the tearing down of houses but we've been pushing that what we really need was the expertise and equipment to get in there and clean Munn’s Run. Mayor Kalb asked if we would be responsible for the structure that was built on the easement and Manager Allen stated that we were responsible for the wall only. Mayor Kalb said wouldn't we be responsible for the structure and the question was referred to Solicitor Haas who advised to just fix the wall.

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

3. Sheridan Road Drainage Basin

CM-17-48

Manager Allen said there was a request to address some drainage issues at 3313 Sheridan Road as there was a lot of water runoff because the streets were uncurbed as well as other drainage issues along Sheridan Road and Orchard Drive. He requested \$20,000 to have the whole drainage system looked at in order to determine if there were easements and what needed to be done. They will be meeting with the homeowner again.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept Alternative #2 for emergency purposes.

Councilman Kevin E. Johnson said that Orchard was part of the problem and should be mentioned in the legislation. Manager Allen said that the map encompasses Orchard, Sheridan and all of the way over to Forest.

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

4. Pershing Avenue Appropriation

CM-17-49

Manager Allen said that ROCLA Company (they make concrete railroad ties) was making a significant investment in a Portsmouth/Sciotoville facility. He said to access their property they have to drive on Pershing Avenue which was a residential street. He added that due to the by-pass SR 823 the end of the street was relocated and there was some difficulty getting trucks back to the plant. They met with them in conjunction with SOPA and were able to obtain a \$400,000 Grant for the project which was estimated around \$450,000; the city needed to pledge \$50,000 of the \$450,000. ODOT said they would loan us the money for a charge of \$5,000 and after speaking with Auditor Williams, he believed that it could be funded out of the CIP fund for a short period of time until we were reimbursed.

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

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

5. City Operated EMS

CM-17-50

Manager Allen said that he would let Chief Raison speak on behalf of the Fire Department. Chief Raison said the EMS had been in the process for the past several years and was something that had been done years ago when we had Fire and EMS, but was terminated in the 1980's but they were looking to get back into providing the service. The City currently has one privately owned Ambulance company which was under no obligation to provide these services to our area but they do because they care about the community. This would be a public/private partnership so that when the calls come in there would be no lag in response time and would provide the best emergency services to the community. He said that once they begin to do transports that could begin cost recovery and that would be a source of revenue for the city, but that Emergency Services usually do not make money. He added that Council had his proposal, and individual consultant Dr. William Kramer from Cincinnati, Ohio as well as the State Auditor. Manager Allen said that the Resolution put before Council would require Council to decide whether or not they want to move forward with Fire/EMS because there would be three or four things that would be required and it doesn't make sense to approve the first one and not approve the second or third. He stressed that once we start down this road it would make no sense to buy an ambulance and then vote "no" on entering into a franchise agreement with an Ambulance company. The intent was not to be the sole provider of the EMS services because the city cannot afford to do that. He said the proposal would be to purchase ambulances and most of the staff was already trained with the exception of a few and if a call would come in, they would respond and if a second call comes in, the benefit of having an exclusive franchise with a company would be that the call would roll over to them. He added that even though there's only one company in town we would still do a request for proposals or qualifications to make sure that they can meet the minimum requirements and staffing. There was more lengthy discussion, but there would need to be 2 ambulances at \$90,000 each.

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

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

6. Replacement of Municipal Boiler

CM-17-51

Manager Allen said in January the boiler went out and it needed to be replaced; it had been checked and found to be rusted out underneath. The proposal was for \$36,000, we held off so that the building wouldn't have to be closed down and planned to replace it during the summer. Councilman Meadows asked if this was the only proposal, and Manager Allen replied that more proposals could be gotten but this was the company that had been servicing the unit. Mayor Kalb thought that it would be best to move forward as soon as possible.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept Alternative #2, emergency request or suspend the readings to expedite the process as quickly as possible.

Councilman Meadows said that he didn't believe that it was an emergency but he felt it was a big chunk of money and we needed other competitive bids. Manager Allen said we can get other bids, this would just appropriate the money.

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

7. Assistant to the City Manager

CM-17-52

Manager Allen said that when he was hired the city had financial constraints and not all of the positions were filled in his office. He requested to hire an assistant which would help him dramatically. The applicant would need to have a college degree in Public Administration.

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

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

8. Salary Ordinance Update

CM-17-53

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson requested to remove this legislation

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk