

MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES
Portsmouth City Council Meeting on
September 25, 2017 7:20 p.m.

1. Discussion - Medical Marijuana

Councilman Kevin E. Johnson requested a public meeting regarding the Medical Marijuana Dispensary. Manager Allen said he thought the Welcome Center would be a good idea because of the amount of people that would possibly be attending. Councilwoman Aeh asked if the time limit someone could speak could be changed from 5 minutes to 3 minutes because they would still have the opportunity to come to council meeting to speak. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson said that he believed it should stay at 5 minutes and asked Solicitor Haas if Council would be within the law to have a public meeting to hear from people on an issue that there may not be a vote on, the reply was “yes”. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson suggested having the City Manager to contact council with an appropriate date and Manager Allen said he would work with Diana to get something set up. He also stated that usually when public meetings were held they have an expert present to field questions, because he doesn’t know anything about the dispensaries. Solicitor Haas said that he would look at the Municipal League Attorneys Association and Manager Allen suggested also the State Pharmacy Board might be able to send someone to tell you the rules because he felt that was what people needed to hear were the rules for the dispensaries as it was not a time to argue pro or against and Solicitor Haas said the time to argue for or against was over. Mayor Kalb suggested having an elected official from a city where it had been legalized to tell us how it worked in their city. Manager Allen said that this just started and there were none set up yet and it differs in other states. Solicitor Haas said that the State will decide sometime in November and it would need to be held prior to that date. Mayor Kalb mentioned doing some type of campaign to sell ourselves as to why a dispensary should be located in the City of Portsmouth. Solicitor Haas said that a date and location should be set up prior to the next meeting and since there would be a quorum there would need to be a vote on whether to have a special meeting.

2. Discussion – Economic Development Director Position

Manager Allen introduced adding an Economic Development Director.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept Alternative #1 (motion to approve the position).

Councilman Meadows said at this point his vote would be “no” because there was no information on the position and doesn’t want to rush into anything when he wasn’t prepared. Mayor Kalb said this would be for preparation of legislation. Councilman Kevin E. Johnson said we have nothing to go on and how would it appear on the agenda. Mayor Kalb replied “To create a position of an Economic Development Director” Mr. Meadows stated that there were no salary ranges etc.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson

Submitted by: Diana Ratliff – City Clerk