

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, December 12, 2011

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on, Monday, November 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Acting President of Council, John Haas called the meeting to order. A moment of silent prayer was observed followed by The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call showed the following members to be present:

Kevin Johnson	1 st Ward
Rich Saddler	2 nd Ward
Nicholas Basham	3 rd Ward
Jerrold Albrecht	4 th Ward
John Haas	5 th Ward
Richard Noel	6 th Ward

Also present were Mayor David A. Malone and Solicitor, Michael L. Jones, and City Auditor, M. Trent Williams.

On a motion by Councilman Albrecht, Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the regular session of November 14, 2011.

There was no public hearing and no one present wished to address Council with regard to any item on the agenda.

LEGISLATION

The Clerk gave a **second reading** to an ordinance authorizing the vacation of the alley located between Southern Ohio Museum property Parcel No. 30-1072 and Caudill property Parcel No. 30-0755 as requested by mutually by Southern Ohio Museum and Richard Noggins and more fully described in the attached Legal description. With the City of Portsmouth reserving all easement to this property.

Councilman Albrecht moved this constitute a second reading.

There were no further questions or comments. The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0 A second reading was declared.**

The Clerk gave a **second reading** to an ordinance authorizing the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$14,680 into Legal Department Attorney Fees Line Item No. 101.105.2532 for attorney fees for legal services incurred to defend three separate lawsuits and also for substitute prosecutor services.

Councilman Albrecht moved this constitute a second reading.

There were no further questions or comments. The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0 A second reading was declared.**

The Clerk gave a **first reading** to an ordinance authorize the transfer of \$66,666.67 from Fund 225 Law Enforcement Trust to Fund 217 Dispatch OCJS appropriate the funding as received, and upon completion of the grant allow for reimbursement amount of \$50,000.00 to be transferred back to Fund 225 from Fund 217.

Councilman Albrecht moved this constitute a first reading.

There were no further questions or comments. The roll was called. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0 A first reading was declared.**

Statement or Remarks from Citizens on items not on the Agenda

Jennifer Foster – Director Main Street Portsmouth- Reviewed the December report that was emailed to the City Clerk for distribution to City Council.

Retail is Detail
Held: November 29 & 30, 2011

This service provided free professional consulting services to small businesses in downtown Portsmouth. Businesses were made aware of low costs techniques to improve business, such as increasing foot traffic and to become a permanent fixture in the community.

Participating Businesses:

1. Market Street Fabric Shoppe
2. Vanity Hair Salon
3. Primitive Corner
4. Smith's Drugs
5. Remember When Antiques

The consultants met with businesses on November 29 and 30 and those consultants will come back in January and meet with the participants again.

Santa Stroll

Held: December 3, 2011

Main Street Portsmouth in conjunction with Shawnee State University organized this event to bring students downtown to shop.

They were able to send out mass emails to the students to advise of the Open House Twenty-two (22) businesses participated in this event. Students were encouraged to visit local businesses and take advantage of special offers prior to going home after finals.

Santa: Old-Fashioned Holiday Magic

Held: December 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, & 18, 2011

Main Street Portsmouth partnered with the Portsmouth Daily Times, to bring Santa and vendors to the Paul E. Johnson Emporium Building. The event has been planned for eight days, the first four have concluded with four more starting on Thursday.

Building Improvement Grant Program

Meeting Date: December 13, 2011

Announcement Date: December 17, 2011

During the meeting on December 15, 2011, the selection for the buildings to receive the Grant to be improved in the Main Street District will be made. There are seven (7) applicants. The Grant offers matching funds up to 50%. This is a partnership between Main Street Portsmouth, the City of Portsmouth, and the Richard Marting Foundation

Miscellaneous business and reports:

City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

1. Mayor Malone offered appreciation to Jennifer for sharing the activities being carried out and sponsored by Main Street Portsmouth in conjunction with the City of Portsmouth. The Mayor stated he attended the Retail is Detail meeting and he thought it was very informative and wished other businesses had been in attendance as there was very good points and ideas that would help grow their business. He also thanked the five (5) businesses that participated and look forward to their feedback.
2. Announced the City Buildings Committee, that was appointed by Council President and the Mayor will have their first meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jury room adjacent to the Mayor's office. The Mayor encouraged and invited Council Members to attend the meeting.
3. As requested by Councilman Saddler, he has provided Council with the plan for encouraging businesses to locate in Portsmouth. He has provided them with their (Mayor's office) thoughts and ideas, as well as working with Main Street. He did not want to read the document that he presented to the Council but assured that they are meeting and working with individuals. They are meeting with a business once a week talking through processes and encouraging them, and inquiring if there was anything the City could do for them and assure them that the City will be there for them. The Mayor stated that this is not a "cookie cutter" plan, that each administration has their way of forming and trying to create better work environment/business activities for the community.
4. Wanted to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas.

The Mayor's report was received, filed and made a part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

Presidents Report

1. Acting President Haas wanted to advise that the next meeting would fall on December 26th and is considered a holiday day this year and for this reason the meeting will be moved to Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. He also extended his thanks to Councilman Basham for pointing this out to him prior to this evenings meeting starting.
2. Mr. Haas expressed his pride and appreciations for the work that Mr. Jones has done on the CIP transfer request and Mr. Williams for his job as a witness in the proceedings and the “grilling” he took from a couple former Mayors.

The President’s report was received, filed and made a part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

Miscellaneous business from City Council

1st Ward Councilman Johnson stated that he concurred with the Mayor in wishing all a Very Merry Christmas.

Mr. Johnson stated what has made our community so wonderful; 365 days a year are the many non-profits, churches, groups, organizations and their thousands of volunteers that make our community what it is. Especially at Christmas, truly representing their faiths and getting out and helping those who need the help. Groups like Main Street helping businesses to make this community thrive and he wanted to thank all those groups and thousands of volunteers that make our community very special.

2nd Ward Councilman Saddler stated that he had received emails from Juanita (Jewett – Mayor’s Office) and Tracy (Shearer – Mayor’s Office) with all the department heads, Trent (City Auditor) and the Mayor email addresses and he will be forwarding them a copy of his proposed budget.

Mr. Saddler wanted to know if there was any information on CDBG money for demolitions for the 2nd Ward, a list or anything. He stated that he knew that they have talked about this before but has not gotten an update.

Mr. Saddler thanked the Mayor for his taking care of the house on 6th Street and the fence at the Service Department, stating it was done pretty quickly after the last meeting. He also extended his thanks to Bill Beaumont and Engineering for their efforts in getting this done.

Mr. Saddler thanked the Mayor for the written response of the Business Plan.

Mr. Saddler wished everyone a good Merry Christmas, very good holidays, happy Hanukkah and everything else that falls in.

3rd Ward Councilman Basham wanted to take a moment to thank the residents of his Ward for their efforts in decorating for the holiday, and making their houses look nice and festive this holiday season.

4th Ward Councilman Albrecht stated that the previously reported vicious dog issues, has been resolved. He appreciated that the Health Department getting back with him.

Mr. Albrecht wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

5th Ward Councilman Haas expressed his wishes for everyone to have a Happy Holiday Season.

6th Ward Councilman Noel had nothing to report.

Mr. Noel wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Haas joked about the pronouncing of Mr. Noel’s name at this time of year.

City Solicitor Mr. Jones advised that notice was received today regarding the Court decision for the CIP transfer. He anticipated a decision on December 21, 2011.

City Auditor Mr. Williams had nothing to report

Councilman Basham made a motion to recess, along with the Mayor and City Solicitor, into an executive session to discuss contract negotiations and Council Personnel.

**Executive
Session**

Roll was called. There **VOTE: ayes 5 – nays 1 (Councilman Noel) The motion carried. Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:20 p.m.**

Council reconvened at 6:50 p.m. The roll call showed all those previously in attendance were still present.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m., on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

City Clerk

Acting President of Council