

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 Monday January 28, 2019
 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday January 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Acting Mayor Johnson 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:

Sean Dunne	1 st Ward
Jo Ann Aeh	2 nd Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 rd Ward
Jerrold Albrecht	4 th Ward
Gene Meadows	5 th Ward - Absent
Thomas K. Lowe	6 th Ward - Absent

Also present was City Manager Sam Sutherland, Solicitor John Haas, Auditor M. Trent Williams and City Clerk Diana Ratliff.

Councilmen Meadows and Lowe’s absence was excused on a motioned by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 4 ayes –0 nays.**

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Regular Session of January 14, 2019 on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 4 ayes –0 nays.**

There was no Public Hearing.

Councilwoman Aeh made a motion to recess into Executive Session with the City Manager and the Solicitor to clarify items in a personnel contract. The second issue would be with the City Manager to compare options in a bargaining unit contract.

Executive Session

The role was called and the motion carried: **VOTE: 4 ayes– 0 nays, Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m.**

Councilman Meadows arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Councilwoman Aeh moved that Council reconvene from Executive Session. The roll was called and the motion carried. **VOTE: ayes 5 – nays 0, Council reconvened with all still in attendance at 6:27 p.m.**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned to add to the agenda as item (j) a Resolution to authorize extending the terms of agreement between the Board of Scioto County Commissioners and the City of Portsmouth regarding providing representation to indigents charged in the Portsmouth Municipal Court. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes –0 nays.**

Item added to Agenda

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Chief Robert Ware – 728 2nd Portsmouth, OH – He addressed the proposal for PMHA property and transitional housing for youth. 1. **The Service** – He stated that in Portsmouth there was a serious problem and many agencies have been working together to identify the shortcomings in services, identifying potential solutions to problems and attempting to save the generation that is addicted and the at-risk youth that were vulnerable to the same cycle if we don’t interject. The service itself was absolutely a service that had been identified by several providers, government agencies and they believe this would give the children a fighting chance to grow up not in addiction, not in the criminal justice system, and not a victim of some of the social ills that were present. 2. **The Proposed Location** – He told the Planning Commission and the residents of which their properties were adjoined with the proposed location, that as Chief of Police he had an obligation to look out for the citizen’s best interest and also to look out for the best interest of the city as a whole. He was familiar with two sites within the State of Ohio that were similar to what was being proposed, one was in Dayton and the other in Columbus and he understood that there was also one in Cincinnati but wasn’t familiar with it. He said that security was all about how the property was built; the proposed site was named after a local sports hero and had been in disrepair for many years. The Police have found stolen property there, they’ve had a suicide, homeless camps and other improper activities, all of which were either illegal or jeopardized the neighborhood behind it. The other factor was the criminal element that infiltrated the Metropolitan Housing to the south of the proposed site in order to have this facility function as planned. He promised the resident’s, this body of government, and the community partners that he would work with all groups to make sure to improve the safety and security of the neighborhood, the residents of the facility and keep the barriers between the properties safe and secure. If planned and done properly, it would actually enhance the security for all three. He said that some people were of the opinion that this service was needed but they did not want it next door to them. He said there were similar concerns in 2017 when Jay Hash started a

residential program for women on Offnere Street and now nobody even knew it was there because the due diligence was given to take the steps to make sure it was safe and secure.

Peggy Rice – Executive Director of PMHA 410 Court Street, Portsmouth, OH – She said that one of the things that they had been doing at the Housing Authority was talking with their partners in the community about the needs that exist in the community and what we as a community could do to supply those needs and solve those problems. Shawnee Family Health and the Housing Authority were excited to come together and create a partnership in which they could go into this endeavor to affect the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the community, some of the people whom have the smallest voice were kids that have been taken out of their homes and away from everything that they were familiar with and been placed in the foster-care system which was already over tasked. She said at the age of 18, these kids were sent out into the real world to sink or swim. She had spoken with the past two directors of local Children’s Services Board, and it had always been a great concern to them because once they leave foster care it’s hard for Children’s Services to find them and supply the needs that these kids may have; these kids were going back to the same situation that they came out of or sofa-surfing on anybody’s couch that will let them stay or ending up on the streets. When you release these kids back into the same situation, they become easy prey, now you’ve got a child who needed us but was now a problem for us. She said that when “transitional aged youth” was mentioned people have different connotations of what it meant. Transitional Age Youth are 18-24 year olds who have aged out of the foster care system. They want to help them become productive citizens, workers and parents of the community and give them a chance in which they haven’t really had in their whole life because of the circumstances they were born into. PMHA was excited because of the things that they will be able to offer these kids, and we really stand a good chance of bringing this to our city/community and it was a resource that usually was not available to us because it always goes to the larger cities; and now they’re looking at a 9 million dollar project in Portsmouth. The property is perfect because they will have the green space, they have the real estate to have an area around the site in which these kids could feel comfortable. They have the ability to affect their safety and security which the focus group’s finding was the main concern of the kids. They have the ability to work with the kids and design a system that will work for them and help them develop the skills they need and with the partnership of Shawnee Family Health they will have clinical services on site, emergency call systems in place for after hours and on weekends, there will be a secure building as there will be one access point for people to go and come from, they will have an individual buzzing people in and out and checking to see if a person coming in was actually a person that was supposed to be in the building. They have support letters from agencies within the City of Portsmouth and Scioto County who were anxious to work with them. They will be working very closely with the Juvenile Court and with Children Services to try and make this the best it could possibly be for the kids that they will be serving. She reiterated that it was a 9 million dollar project and they will have workers in the city paying city income tax, spending money their stores and restaurants and it’s a win-win for everyone.

Carrisa Boggs – 261 Willow Bend Way – Wheelersburg – She has been a resident of Portsmouth her whole life and has worked with the youth at Shawnee Mental Health Center for 21 years. She is the coordinator for the children’s program and worked directly with the 18-24 year old youths which was a very vulnerable age. They are at risk to start using, they don’t have that support from parents telling them they need an education and a job. There were a ton of kids as mentioned that are couch surfing and a high volume of kids being raised by their grandparents and great-grandparents. She understood the scary thoughts of the type of kids that were going to be living in the facility, but they have kids that have never been in trouble and have never been to juvenile court. There were kids that have been living with a grandparent and then the grandparent died or had to enter a nursing home. These kids worry about their basic needs being met, they don’t have a place to lie down, they don’t have a safe environment, and not sure how they will get a driver’s license or a job; these were basic needs that have to be met. They toured a facility last year in Cincinnati, it was a beautiful facility, dorm-like living style, security guard, key swab to get in and out of the facility and she felt very secure there. In polling some of the kids that she interacted with, the main thing that each of them stated was that “they wanted to feel safe”. They want to have a place that they could come and go without having to stay at a place of chaos where there were all kinds of different people coming and going, some had parents that were drug users, and some with people who were violent. This was really important to our youth, the cycle needs broken, kids in our community have to know that they need to go to work and they need a support system, have a driver’s license, be able to fill out job applications, to have vocational support in case they don’t go to college, and they would help them prepare for a job. Shawnee Mental Health Center and other agencies would be welcomed to come in and teach basic life skills such as: how to do laundry (there will be laundry rooms), how to prepare for a job or work on their GED, they will have a program there that will come in and work with the kids on furthering their education. These are all goals to make them successful citizens.

Dawn Keller – Judge Lemons Court Administrator and has a daughter that lives on Orizaba – She also toured the facility in Cincinnati, it was a very beautiful facility and she felt it improved the neighborhood. It was beautifully landscaped with flowers, there was security, and case-workers with all of the juveniles. While she was there she spoke with some of the kids and added that these weren’t delinquent kids, but kids who have no parents, kids who have been raised with grandparents or in foster care. She worked with the kids throughout the day and stated that these kids didn’t have parental or grandparent support. She urged Council to visit the facility in Cincinnati and look at what’s being offered. She has grandkids on Orizaba and she has no issue with the location.

Larry Mitchell – 2425 Orizaba – He said he wasn’t against the facility just the location and felt there were other available places. The city has torn down many properties for revitalization and he felt this would be a good time for the city to work together with these organizations and put the facility at another location. He stated there was a lot where the cable company used to be which was right across from one of their facilities and would be easily accessed by those that work there. He didn’t feel that they had checked the proposed land very well because the

land was fill dirt, rock and debris. The previous speakers mentioned the location in Cincinnati and how beautiful it was; it may have been in a bad neighborhood which would've increased the value of the neighborhood, but he doesn't feel this would be of value to their neighborhood. He was concerned about transient people because of the high crime in the Wayne Hills area. He felt peer pressure would override Counseling if at-risk youth were put in that location and then there would be more kids with other problems. He said "build it, but build it in a safer location". He added that another problem was flooding and problems with the sewers in that area. He stated that the city was aware of the problem and had worked on it but adding more development to the system may increase more problems. He wanted to know what would happen when the sewage starts backing up when this facility was added and if PMHA would be taking care of the sewage issues. He understood the need for a facility but would like to see it built elsewhere. He also had asked about when these kids have kids and they start flooding this apartment house with people; he sees major problems and after they build this one, will that want to build another one, where does it end?

Dr. Laura Fuller – Director of Scioto County Children's Services -3940 Gallia Street – They currently have 215 children in agency custody and last year they had 6 kids age out of the system. She said the majority of the kids that come to them were abused and neglected children and that there were very few unruly or delinquent kids, but overall those weren't typically the types of kids that age out of the system. They have case workers that work with the children but when they become adults they want to be on their own and don't always want the Children's services involvement, however, typically they were dependent upon housing in the community and mental health services. They estimate that approximately 30 children will age out of the system which meant that 30 kids will turn 18 over the next two years and they need their young adults to have stable housing and this facility will have everything in place for this to happen. She told of a girl that had aged out of the system but couldn't come back to Portsmouth because there was no place for her to go and no resources for her. This girl entered a facility up north and was doing wonderful and living independently. She would like Council's support for the facility.

Mike Lallow – 2440 Edgewood Drive – He agree with Mr. Mitchell and he had the same concerns. He believes there's a better location than where it was being proposed.

Eloise Knittel – 2445 Edgewood Drive – She stated that there were two guys that came and dug up two holes in her yard they said they were surveyors from Wheelersburg and that the city hired them. She wanted to know who gave them permission to come and dig a hole in everybody's yard and why. She added that the street was built in 1962 and they were the 5th house on the street and at that time the builders Smith & Broles told her that the street would always be a dead-end.

Gina Rainer – 2394 Orizaba Lane – She said she was a newer resident of Orizaba Lane and she had concerns when looking for a home: 1. Was it a safe place to live 2. Was she making a good investment 3. Will the property hold its value? This was a new development and she has had some of the main concerns that others have voiced, she wants to be secure and wants her home value to be maintained. She was looking at all of the development and statistic surrounding it as well as the illegal activity. She concluded that having a partnership with Shawnee Family Health and PMHA would provide a secured facility with secured access. She believed it to be a win-win because they were actually cleaning up the stuff that was already happening. She said there were homeless kids out there already and encouraged them to give them a place to live, to be educated and to grow and be given an opportunity that otherwise they would not receive. She borrowed the saying from Drug Free America "If not me, who. If not now, when". She's proud of Portsmouth for actually controlling the situation rather than letting it control us.

Steve Smith – Developer for the Project – He said that they also developed the Cincinnati facility for transitioning kids coming out of foster care. He lives in Cincinnati very close to the Cincinnati facility, and in his community they continued to see what was happening to these kids; they had a decision to make to continue to ignore what was happening to these kids or be proactive. He said the impact that it has had on these kids was astounding; there were videos that they would be happy to share, but these kids are at such a transition that it was just a fork in the road and the only way a lot of these kids have a fighting chance was to be in a place where they were not worried about where they're going to sleep because they have someone watching out for their best interest, they have a feeling of safety so that they can focus on something other than just surviving. This was a great platform to give these kids space to think about what kind of education or vocation they want to get. He has been doing this type of work for 27 years and built a number of developments including the one in Cincinnati, they have built on some of the worst soils that you can imagine and would not be built until they had done their due diligence.

Pat Spriggs – 2470 Edgewood Drive – She said if that was her child she wouldn't want them raised in a high crime area because it would not be a good situation to put these young kids in the facility where there was already high crime. She felt there was a better place in Portsmouth than Wayne Hills.

Sandra Bates – 2364 Edgewood Drive – She also owns 2375 Edgewood Drive and her two properties butt up against the fence that separate Edgewood and the proposed site. She's concerned about the egress into the facility and would like this to be considered to be off of Thomas Avenue and not through Edgewood Drive which is a dead-end street. That would be a lot of traffic, and their street was not intended for that use and however they get to the facility she doesn't want it to come through her property. Her properties would be the ones that would be affected the most because she was at the very end on both sides and she doesn't want it opened up for through

traffic. She would like to the egress through Thomas Avenue and leave Edgewood as a dead-end street. She actually thought that they were there to address the egress and not the facility.

Mark Cardosi – Portsmouth Attorney – He is married to a school teacher that works in Portsmouth. He said at the age of 2 weeks he was given up for adoption and spent the next 13 months in an orphanage but for Catholic Social Services and a wonderful couple in Cincinnati, Ohio he wouldn't be here today. He said since Thanksgiving 1958 he had not had any concerns about housing, but for the last 37 years of his professional life he had worked with vulnerable populations who weren't sure whether they could retain or obtain decent, safe and sanitary housing. He helped create the Brown County Metropolitan Housing Authority, he was the co-founder of Scioto County Habitat for Humanity, and the co-founder of the Scioto County Homeless Shelter. Volatile population such as these at-risk children need housing here in Portsmouth. The project as proposed provided opportunity and economic impact and part of the allure of the project for financing purposes was the fact the property could be made available for free, thus reducing the overall cost of the project. The children that we've heard about, need this project; he's been in housing for low income populations long enough to know that a 9 million dollar project especially for Southern Ohio would not come along very often, if at all in the next many years. He urged Council to consider this and give the necessary approval to let this project proceed.

Katie Kitchen – Corporation for Supportive Housing – The Corporation she worked for creates these supportive housing interventions which were a proven solution to the devastating consequences of homelessness and family dissolution. She helped develop the housing in Cincinnati which was a beautiful building but more importantly were the lives that it was changing. Developing these types of projects is extremely competitive; there were roughly 5 or 6 across the state similar to this but not specifically geared towards the youth, and most of them happen in Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland, but there hadn't been a project like this in balance of State that had focused on youth. Balance of State is the other 80 counties besides the large urban ones. A couple of months ago OFA identified this particular project as strong and gave it the opportunity to go forward to compete and the federal funding around that happens in a couple weeks and it was the only project given the green light. There is a unique window of acting on this opportunity and there will be other communities fighting for this funding next year. If there is a decision against this site, it affectively kills the project as there won't be enough time to find another suitable site, and in fact there had already been quite a lot of work to look at potential sites and this was the optimal site for a lot of reasons: 1. Low cost and free to the project. 2. It was large enough that it is not in anyone's back yard which is a great advantage. There's a natural buffer of tree line and a 29 foot elevation that separates it from the neighborhood. 3. The size which had been very difficult to find with that much land to build on in another community. She added that there had been a couple of research studies where these types of supportive housing developments have been found to either help increase property values or had no impact on the value.

Rick Bates - 2364 Edgewood Drive – He's not against building the facility they just don't want it in their faces. He was unclear about why this facility would be stuck in a residential area and not in some commercial area or even outside of the city. They've lived there for years and looked out across the field and see nothing but wooded area and wildlife.

Cynthia Holsten – Executive Director at Shawnee Family Health Center - 901 Washington Street – She said that when she was growing up, she learned very early and in a hard way that life wasn't fair and there wasn't an equal playing field. She said growing up most people she knew had more money than her and didn't have a parent that came home drunk or brought other drunks home for the weekend that she would have to deal with. She also learned people had indoor plumbing, indoor toilets, so when Thomas Jefferson said "All men and women are created equal" that was an ideal but wasn't true. She asked Council to give these youth a chance and a little bit of an equal playing field. She was very fortunate to have some positive things happen in her life and was able to go to college and get the job she has now and that she loves and she would like to see that happen for these kids as well. If this easement isn't granted this opportunity to get this funding will go away and they won't be able to get it because it is due February 21st, this is the best site, yes there are other sites in the city but there will be additional opposition and they will have to go through this again. If you grant it, you will give these kids a chance at life. She heard politician after politician that we need to give our youth the opportunity to succeed, we have the opportunity to do that now and she believes that we should seize it.

Eddie Knittel – 2391 Edgewood Drive – She moved here 36 years ago and the issue was not whether to build it, but where to build it. She taught Sunday school for 45 years and had helped many children, but a lot of these kids came from Wayne Hills and were the problem. She knew of other kids from other places that had problems but she always tried to do her best to reach out to them. She reiterated that it needed to be put in another location because it was being set in a location where there were already problems and they would be exposed to the problems of Wayne Hills.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing payment of \$250.00 for 2019 to the employees of AFSCME Local 1039 and Local 1039C for a certain stipend when the city implemented health insurance plans that included certain deductibles in order that these employees receive the same benefits as other city employees enrolled in the city's health insurance plan.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be passed.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager of the City of Portsmouth to renew the lease of Shawnee Boating Club, Inc. to allow for three (3) years beginning upon the date of execution of the Lease Agreement (Exhibit A) and ending January 1, 2022, and shall be renewable every three (3) years at a cost of \$100.00 per annum.

**Ord. #02–2019
Renew 3 year
lease to
Shawnee Boat
Club**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be passed.

Acting Mayor Johnson thanked Shawnee Boating Club for all their years, for their presence in the community, and told them that they had done a wonderful job and he looked forward to seeing them there this summer.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed**

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager of the City of Portsmouth to renew the lease of the Anchor Pad Boat Club to allow for three (3) years beginning upon the date of execution of the Lease Agreement (Exhibit A) and ending January 1, 2022, and shall be renewable every three (3) years at a cost of \$100.00 per annum.

**Ord. #03–2019
Renew 3 year
lease to Anchor
Pad Boat Club**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be passed.

Acting Mayor Johnson thanked Anchor Pad Boat Club and looked forward to seeing them again this summer.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager of the City of Portsmouth to renew the lease of Sciotoville Boat Club, Inc. to allow for three (3) years beginning upon the date of execution of the Lease Agreement (Exhibit A) and ending January 1, 2022, and shall be renewable every three (3) years at a cost of \$100.00 per annum.

**Ord. #04–2019
Renew 3 year
lease to
Sciotoville Boat
Club**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be passed.

Acting Mayor Johnson thanked Sciotoville Boat Club and looked forward to seeing them again this summer.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing amending certain sections of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth Ohio to substitute the words City Manager for the word Mayor.

**Ord. #05–2019
Amending
Codified
Ordinances
wording from
Mayor to City
Manager**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be passed.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance to appoint Sam Sutherland to the position of City Manager of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.

**Ordinance was
Tabled**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be Tabled to the meeting of February 11, 2019.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the Ordinance was tabled.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$48,000.00 from Street Construction Maintenance and Repair Line Item No. 231.335.5266 for payment to Reiser Construction to repair a severe road slip in the area of Timlin Hill Road. Pursuant to Council Rule 5, this legislation is requested to be passed as an emergency in accordance with Section 10 of the Charter for the City of Portsmouth in order to facilitate administration, daily operation and avoid practical and legal entanglements.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned to suspend the three reading as requested.

The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the rule was suspended.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be passed.

Acting Mayor Johnson asked Manager Sutherland if this had been an ongoing problem and he replied that there had been some issues but not to this magnitude.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, to grant an easement to Portsmouth Metropolitan Housing Authority (PMHA) to use a section of property for ingress and egress between Thomas Avenue and Parcel No. 33-2681.000 as shown on the attached Scioto County GIS Map subject to grant approval for the project subject of the January 18, 2019 City Planning Commission hearing. Pursuant to Council Rule 5, this legislation is requested to be passed as an emergency in accordance with Section 10 of the Charter for the City of Portsmouth in order to facilitate administration, daily operation and avoid practical and legal entanglements.

Solicitor Haas requested a five to ten minute recess. The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays a recess was granted at 7:26.

Councilwoman Aeh moved that Council reconvene from recess. **The role was called VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, Council reconvened with all still in attendance at 7:46 p.m.**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a first reading.

Councilman Meadows addressed the emergency wording and stated that they had until February 21st to submit the application and Council will have another meeting prior to that on February 11th. He has had a lot of people call him from the 5th Ward and all have been opposed to the location. He spoke with a few that weren't against the project but were against the location. He stated that his view of Wayne Hills/Kendall Heights was not favorable and he understood that security would be provided for the facility but kids are impressionable. He had an investigator out looking for witnesses one night around 2:00 a.m. and within a 30 minute period she witnessed 6 drugs deals go down. His concern was that these kids will be up on the hill looking down into Wayne Hills and witnessing these deals. He had a client of his that told him that he could make \$70,000 a month on drug deals and that it was worth the 6 years he had done in prison. He had another client that got out of prison and had nothing else to do and knew nothing but how to push drugs and he's not convinced that they will be able to control the situation. He felt that currently he did not have enough information, but hoped that over the next two weeks to learn more. He said that if there were constituents out there in favor of it, he hadn't heard from them. He urged them to email him or contact him via cellphone and leave a message.

Councilman Dunne stated he didn't want to speak in opposition, but we are at a time where millennials were leaving home and wages continue to go down. These are changing times where students that have graduated were still living at home. Some of the things that emerged were the weakness in the economy but there's been strength in families in 20 year olds as they transition into adulthood but not every kid had that luxury. He explained that he was the son of immigrants and when he looked at the achievements that he had in life, he knew it wasn't just his hard work and good luck along the way, he had a supportive family and doesn't know what he would've done without his parents. He would like to hear more about the topic as there's diversity about the topic.

Councilman Albrecht said that he had some questions that he would like answered and he would like to meet with the representatives.

Councilwoman Aeh stated that she agreed with Councilman Meadows, she wanted more information. She said at the last meeting they were told that anyone that came into the facility would not be asked to leave. She said she didn't know who was paying the rent or if it was low cost or free rent, but if no one is ever asked

Ord. #06-2019
Repair to
Timlin Hill
Road

to leave, then in a couple of years there may be an 18 year old coming out of foster care and cannot get into the transitional housing because everyone had decided to stay and then the facility had become a low or no cost housing and that's not fair to that neighborhood. Mr. Cardosi mentioned Habitat for Humanity and she has a house next door to her that was condemned and Habitat offered to take and renovate it for a family that needed a home which at the time she thought was wonderful but now wouldn't wish one of those houses on anyone. It had cost her several thousands of dollars since 2008 to keep roaches out of her house, they planted a big pin oak in the front yard that had been disastrous to the gutters on her house and had uprooted her driveway. They have 3 dogs they don't take care of and she's constantly having to call the Health Department. She doesn't want these people who have lived in that neighborhood and pay property taxes to have their property devalued because this project did not turn out the way it was proposed. She heard a lot of "if's" and "we will offer" but they do not say that they have to be trained in how to manage on their own, they say "we will offer it" and that doesn't mean that these young people coming in there have to learn how to take care of themselves.

Solicitor said that he intended to present legislation on the City Manager's conference agenda so that if Council had questions or concerns about the project that they could ask them at that time as it was a more relaxed platform. Councilman Meadows apologized as he would not be able to stay for the Conference Agenda.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 4 ayes– 1 nays (K. E. Johnson), a first reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution requesting the advance payment of all taxes now standing to the account of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, from the Treasurer of Scioto County, Ohio, and any and all other monies due the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, included in the certificate of estimated resources as issued and approved by County Budget Commission, and to be credited to the respective funds by the warrants received from the Auditor of Scioto County, Ohio.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Resolution be adopted.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the Resolution was adopted.**

Res. #01–2019
Advance
Payment of
Taxes from
Scioto County

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution to authorize extending the terms of agreement between the Board of Scioto County Commissioners and the City of Portsmouth regarding providing representation to indigents charged in the Portsmouth Municipal Court.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Resolution be adopted.

Res. #02–2019
Indigent
Agreement with
Scioto County

Councilman Meadows stated that he would be abstaining from the vote because from time to time he would be assigned one of the cases.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nays – 1 Abstain (G. Meadows), the Resolution was adopted.**

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no one present that wished to address Council not on items on the agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

City Clerk's Report – City Clerk Ratliff reported the following:

1. She prepared and administered the Oath of Office to Sondra Hash, Jim Kalb, Kelly Raise and Bill Shope of the Land Reutilization Committee.

The City Clerk's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh's. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays.**

City Manager's Report – Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. His written report can be found on the city's website www.portsmouthoh.org.
2. He advised Council of the sinkhole on Sunrise Avenue and explained that they were going to try to handle it in-house.

The City Manager's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh's. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays.**

Acting Mayor's Report – Acting Mayor Johnson reported the following:

1. He apologized for missing the last meeting as he was under the weather.
2. He met with City Manager Sutherland, Portsmouth Assistant Principal Morris and Resource Officer Davis on January 18, 2019 to discuss some safety issues pertaining to the cross-walks and safety signage around the city schools.
3. He met with resident's on Seneca Avenue concerning some drainage issues and Manager Sutherland stated that they were working on it but they were waiting on the gas company to locate the gas lines.
4. He attended the City Planning Commission meeting on January 18, 2019.
5. He chaired the Board of Health on January 23, 2019.
6. He re-appointed Juanita Jewett to the City Planning Commission.

The Acting Mayor's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh's. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays.**

Solicitor Haas' Report – Solicitor Haas had no report.

Auditor Williams Report – Mr. Williams had no report.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward – Councilman Sean Dunne reported the following:

1. He also apologized for not being at the last meeting.
2. He attended a meeting of The Portsmouth Welcoming Committee who were the ones who host the Pride events.
3. He met with City Manager Sutherland and members of the community about the McKinley Pool as they were working hard to make sure that certain improvements get done so that the pool could be opened on time this year.
4. He met with individuals to discuss the arches for 2nd Street which will be a great addition.
5. He met with the 7 Celtic Nations group to discuss trying to develop another Sister City for Portsmouth. The city they're looking at is Ennis County Clare in Ireland.
6. He said that a grant had been submitted to the Tony Hawk Foundation for the Skate Park.
7. He thanked Andy Gedeon, the Health Department and Manager Sutherland for their quick responses to a lot of citizens concerns over the past couple of weeks.
8. He is currently getting information on the All-American City application for Portsmouth for all of the new developments over the past 5 years. The last time that was applied for was 1979.

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Aeh reported the following:

1. She had no ward complaints.

3rd Ward – Councilman Kevin E. Johnson reported the following:

1. He offered condolences to the Potts and Mullins family on the loss of Lisa Mullins Potts, who was a very special person in our community. He had the privilege of going to school and working with her in radio, she was a fantastic lady. She came from a long line of radio personalities, Zeke Mullins who was her father and her brother Larry Dale Mullins.

4th Ward – Councilman Albrecht had no report

5th Ward – Councilman Meadows reported the following:

1. He thanked Manager Sutherland for having the leaves picked up in the 5th Ward and some were in the 3rd Ward.

6th Ward – Councilman Lowe had no report due to absence.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh.

City Clerk

Acting Mayor