

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 Monday April 8, 2019
 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday April 8, 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

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

Councilmen Meadows absence was excused on a motioned by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes –0 nays.**

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Regular Session of March 25, 2019 on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes –0 nays.**

There was no Public Hearing.

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was no one present that wished to address Council pertaining to items on the agenda.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City of Portsmouth and Friends of Portsmouth for a Street Arch Lighting Project as per the attached Exhibit A.

Councilwoman Aeh moved that the Ordinance be passed.

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

Ord.#20-2019
Arch project
on Second
Street

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance to amend the Salary Ordinance as amended by Ordinance No. 2 of 2018 to reflect two percent (2%) wage increases for AFSCME 1039C and AFSCME 1039 to be effective January 1, 2019, and to repeal Ordinance No. 2 of 2018.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned to amend the Ordinance as follows per the City Manager’s request:

- (1) Preamble – Adding the Fire Department IAFF Local 9 and the Non-Union Employees – Strike through Ordinance #2 of 2018 and replace with Ordinance #10 of 2018.
- (2) Rates common to Various Departments and Miscellaneous – 1039C Hourly Rate.
- (3) Section II - Mark through Ordinance #2 of 2018 and replace with Ordinance #10 of 2018

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

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 moved that the Ordinance be passed.

Ord.#21-2019
Increase in
wages for
AFSCME
1039, 1039C
and Non-
Union
Employees

Councilman Lowe asked why this needed passed early, Manager Sutherland stated that there was a 30 day rule in effect and if not passed it would be effective by default.

There were no further 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 amending Section 1319.03 - Sanitation of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.

Councilwoman Aeh moved this constitute a first reading.

Councilman Lowe asked what was being changed in the Ordinance. Manager Sutherland replied that the words “solid waste” were being added.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, a first reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance to authorize extending the terms of a lease agreement between Shawnee State University and the City of Portsmouth regarding the use of Branch Rickey Park for an additional two-year term through June 30, 2021.

Councilwoman Aeh moved this constitute a first reading.

Councilman Dunne asked if there were any plans to put additional lighting at the Baseball Field, Auditor Williams stated that over the past couple of years the City budgeted for various improvements to the Baseball stadium and the wooden poles that house the current lighting were not very sturdy. He added that Service Director Beaumont was in attendance and may be able to shed a little more light on the subject. Acting Mayor Johnson stated that he would like to see some research done on the cost to provide new lighting or improved lighting. Mr. Johnson said he had a whole list of complaints on various issues surrounding the Baseball Stadium (Lights in the Men’s Restrooms etc.). Mr. Dunne said that he received a phone call from a man in Detroit who claims to have a new statistical method for baseball analysis (Money Ball part 2) and he wanted to try it out on a minor league team and then move to the major league. He proposed bringing a minor league baseball team to Portsmouth. Director Beaumont stated that they were playing night games 2 years ago, the money that had been allocated for the Baseball Stadium was to repair the center field wall that had collapsed as well as various other repairs that needed done. He said that new lighting was not cheap and could be around \$500,000 to replace the current lighting. Councilman Lowe said that he was in favor of bringing our parks up to date and he commended all of Councilman Dunne’s hard work for the stadium work.

There were no further questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, a first reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance approving the 2019 Capital Improvement Program budget and appropriating funds for same from Capital Improvements Fund No. 301 for listed items only

Councilwoman Aeh moved this constitute a first reading.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, a first reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance approving the 2019 Enterprise Funds Capital Budget, designating and appropriating \$850,000 in Waterworks Revenue C Fund No. 606; designating and appropriating \$117,000 in Sewer System Revenue B Fund No. 622; and designating and appropriating \$77,000 in Sewer System Revenue C Fund No. 623 for listed items only.

Councilwoman Aeh moved this constitute a first reading.

Councilman Lowe asked what the money would be used for and Manager Sutherland replied that \$350,000 of the \$850,000 would be used for the water tank maintenance over a ten (10) year period and when it was all said and done, all of the water tanks would have been painted and put back to speck. He added that the State of Ohio now required that this work be done. He said that included in the \$850,000 was the water line replacement on Second Street from bridge to bridge and water line replacement on Calvert’s Lane which the City and County had entered into an agreement and basically the City was receiving \$500,000 work for \$170,000. Acting Mayor Johnson asked if this was the program with Darren LeBrun and Mr. Sutherland replied “yes” and that \$172,000 portion was the City’s contribution.

There were no further questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays, a first reading was declared.**

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Rick Minnehan – 2209 27th Street – He would like the city to consider paving the road on 27th Street, he said they've filled potholes and patchwork but it needed repaved. He said the curve leading up to Hillview was very bad and needed paved. He was instructed to contact the City Manager's office for a list of streets that would be paved.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

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

1. She received on March 28th from the Fire Department the Oath of Office for the following employees:
Michael Sines – Captain
Brandon Reinhardt – Lieutenant
Travis Garrett – Assistant Chief
2. She received via email on April 1, 2019 from the Auditor's office, the following summary statements of the Combined MTD/YTD reports for the period ending March 31, 2019: Expense, Revenue and Fund.
3. She thanked the facebook community as there had been several citizens going out and cleaning up parts of the city and then posting pictures on facebook, some of the ones that she's seen are: (Pleasant Avenue), (5th Street from Offnere to Campbell), (highway along 52 by the Water Plant) and (Mound Park). She added that she was sure there were more but these are the ones she had seen posted on facebook.
4. She reminded everyone of the Tree City Celebration on Saturday April 13th in Tracy Park from noon until 3:00.

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. He attended the Downtown Portsmouth Summit as well as Solicitor Haas and Auditor Williams last Monday and Tuesday. He said that there was interesting information and the consensus was to have a Master Plan for Portsmouth which he believed to be a good idea; Zoning issues needed to be addressed because of several problems from things that had been done in the past. All in all it was a very good meeting.
2. He dittoed what the City Clerk said about all of these folks getting out and cleaning up the city. He said it was becoming contagious and he believed that the town was looking better, not perfect but better. He said Director Beaumont reported that they picked up 21,000 lbs. of trash. He added that people were getting cleaning up and it looked a lot better, but there's still a long way to go.

Acting Mayor Johnson asked about the drainage issue on Sheridan Avenue, Manager Sutherland replied that he was looking into the report that Strand performed for the city. He spoke with Darren LeBrun after the city was turned down on the grant and Mr. LeBrun suggested that the city partner with the county (Porter Township) and they would go after the grant again. Mr. Johnson addressed the "live streaming" audience on facebook regarding Sheridan Avenue because he received a lot of calls regarding the issue and told them the city was working on getting the street fixed.

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 chaired the Portsmouth Board of Health meeting on March 27th.
2. He and Clerk Ratliff attended the Goodwill awards dinner on March 29th. He commended the employees of Goodwill throughout this region.
3. He reiterated that the Arbor Day event will take place in Tracy Park this coming Saturday. There will be music and games for the kids from noon until 3:00.
4. He thanked the City workers, Manager Sutherland and Director Beaumont for their cleanup efforts as people continue to dump illegal garbage and furniture. He explained that a couple of days ago, someone decided that his neighbor needed a gently used couch, love seat and chair and put it in the alley behind him. He said that the city needed to start enforcing litter laws and fining people that were dumping trash. Director Beaumont explained that a lot of people call throughout the month and request a pickup of larger items, so the Service Department kept a list of all the pickups and the first Saturday of every month they go down the list and do the pickups. They had 18 loads this past Saturday. Acting Mayor Johnson asked about the cost, Director Beaumont replied that it was based on the amount that was being picked up but the maximum a person would pay would be \$25-\$30.

5. He asked the audience how many were present from Shawnee State University and about twenty hands went up in the air. He thanked them for coming to Council.

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 appointed Randy Rice 2525 Scioto Trail Portsmouth to the Traffic Committee.
2. He attended the Scioto Foundation Summit and it was great to see several members from city government in attendance and individuals from Shawnee State University, Southern Ohio Medical Center, the Business Community and a variety of different organizations. He said that people came together to discuss their ideas for the future.
3. He announced that the city was awarded approximately \$156,000 from The Department of Natural Resources which was a collaborative effort from City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, City Solicitor, City Auditor, Shawnee State University students and members of the community to put together a location and design for a Skate Park. They also received a \$10,000 grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation and both of those results were based upon the work of City Council, City Manager and members of the community. He's hoping that they could get it moving for this year, but it was a very large project and it will be a great park when it is finished.
4. He said that there was an outdoor meeting for those that like to do activities outdoors, such as: Fishing, Kayaking, Mountain Biking, Skate Boarding and Hiking as well as other outdoor activities. He added that it was a collection of individuals trying to bring ideas in which we could improve those activities for people and also let people know of all of the activities there were to do outside in our area.
5. They have been doing more planning for the upcoming Blues, Brews & BBQ festival on July 13, 2019 at Spartan Municipal Stadium and the proceeds will go towards the renovation of Spartan Stadium. They continue to attract vendors, and added that it was great to be a part of the planning.
6. He was working on a design for an outdoor trash receptacle that would be the shape of the Michigan football "M" and instead of Michigan it would say trash which people could dispose of their trash. He said there had been a couple of creative proposals from Shawnee State students and believed that this would be a fun way to keep the riverfront clean.

**Appointment
of Randy
Rice to the
Traffic
Committee**

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Aeh had no report.

3rd Ward – Councilman Kevin E. Johnson had no report.

4th Ward – Councilman Albrecht had no report.

5th Ward – Councilman Meadows had no report due to absence.

6th Ward – Councilman Lowe reported the following:

1. He thanked the Service Department and Director Beaumont for fixing the guardrails and trying to keep up with the potholes.
2. He thanked Portsmouth Municipal Court and Chris Tomlin for cleaning up a spot on Gallia Street that he's been trying to get cleanup for three years.
3. He noticed that the Milldale Bridge was fixed and expressed his thanks.
4. He questioned what was being done with the crosstie wall on Gallia, Manager Sutherland stated that he was waiting to hear back from the contractor. He confirmed with the City Solicitor that it was the city's responsibility and the answer was "yes".
5. He gave a shout out to the North Moreland neighborhood watch. He said that since they've started it, they were really doing good things down there and would like to see it in the 6th Ward but it was at least getting people interested. He purchased 35 signs that he distributed in his community just to try to get people interested, even if they don't have it, they have the signs which was a good thing.
6. He asked Manager Sutherland when the dump pickup was going to be, he spoke with the School Board and they told him that there was no problem to have it placed behind the Dairy Bar, but in the meantime there were people dumping trash in that spot.
7. He asked the Manager about the lights on Gallia Street, Manager Sutherland said that they were on order and he confirmed that with Director Beaumont. He asked Mr. Beaumont if there was a time frame and he said that he would check with Jack about it.

8. He said he received a major complaint about mosquitos in the Rose Park area. He advised that children were being bitten by mosquitos and requested that the mosquito program begin so that area could be sprayed because it was hindering the whole league. They can't practice or play because of the mosquitos. He has had numerous pictures sent to him of children with welts from mosquito bites.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:38 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh.

City Clerk

Acting Mayor