

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

Monday July 23, 2018

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday July 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Acting Mayor Kevin E. 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
Thomas K. Lowe	6 th Ward

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

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Regular Session of July 09, 2018 on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0.**

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 on items on the agenda.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of an additional \$50,000.00 from General Fund No. 101 to Engineering/Construction Miscellaneous Services Account Number 101.112.5299 to meet the current and future expenses for 2018.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a second reading.

Acting Mayor Johnson asked Acting Manager Sutherland to explain how these funds would be used. Mr. Sutherland responded that some of it would be used on the roof on the back of the bank building on the old Martings property. The fund for the Engineering Department was not budgeted for this year in comparison to what was spent in last year's budget and he was requesting a comparable amount for that department.

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

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chad Spriggs – 1973 White Hollow Road South Portsmouth, KY – He stated that he was currently a mechanic at the City Garage and it had been brought to his attention that a Mechanic I position was being requested and it would be nice to have a second mechanic. He said that they had had a mechanic previously who was terminated for a traffic violation which was later proved innocent in his court case and all charges were dropped. He was allowed to come back to work but not as a mechanic. He stated that now there was another former employee who was terminated for threatening to shoot another employee and there were discussions about bringing that former employee back to work and putting him in as a mechanic. He expressed that he didn't agree with that decision for that employee to come in as a mechanic, that should be offered to the existing employee as it was his previous position. He questioned who would be held responsible should the previously employee be allowed to come back and follow through with his threat. Mr. Spriggs said that he showed up for work every day, he was a dedicated employee and does his job to the best of his ability, but you never know with people who make those types of threat what they will do and this same person had the same kind of history through a previous employer. He hoped that those in charge would really think about it before jumping to any conclusions on bringing this guy back to work because he doesn't believe that it would be a safe move.

Councilwoman Aeh moved to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues relating to arbitration and requested that the Acting City Manager attend. The role was called and the motion carried: **VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nays, Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:12 p.m.**

Executive
Session

Councilwoman Aeh moved that Council reconvene from Executive Session.

The roll was called and the motion carried. **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, Council reconvened with all still in attendance at 6:34 p.m.**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

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

1. She reminded everyone of the Roy Rogers Festival coming up August 1st – 4th.
2. She reminded everyone of the Main Street Portsmouth Farm to Table Dinner on August 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 at SOMC Friends Center.
3. She received today from Rick Duncan the director of Wastewater Plant a copy of the letter to the County Commissioners regarding the reasons for the sewer rate increases.
4. She said to date we have received 16 resumes for the City Manager position with 5 of those being local resumes.
5. She extend condolences to the family of Jaye Whitt who was the delivery person for Bihl's Office Supply. Jaye never met a stranger and was always very cheerful and seemed to love his job.

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: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Acting 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 gave a status report on Greenlawn Cemetery, the cemetery staff had been working hard and it showed, the cemetery was looking better since they've received help. He was proud of what they have been doing.
3. He updated everyone on the 30 inch waterline project. The first segment of the project was complete and has been in operation since last Wednesday and they have 12.4 ft. of water back in the reservoir. The main will be temporarily shut down so that they can grout around the new main, then they will prepare for the street construction which will be starting soon.
4. He said last week he and the Police Chief met with the Rail Commission regarding the 10th & Lincoln Street crossing and a proposed new gated crossing.

The Acting 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: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

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

1. He met with Councilwoman Aeh, Councilman Dunne, Scioto County Economic Director Robert Horton and Mike Ward of the Scioto County Economic Board and they discussed growth ideas for our area. He was hoping to be able to meet with them even more.
2. He had the honor of attending the open community forum of the Suicide Awareness event at Portsmouth High School Gym. They had a very good turnout and an informative event.
3. He was invited and honored to participate in the ribbon cutting for the dedication of the David A. Barker AM Vets Post 2352 which was located on 11th Street.
4. He commented that he had been watching the progress at Greenlawn Cemetery and he tipped his hat as it seemed they were working well together.
5. He reminded the Acting City Manager about the bump on 11th Street where Shelley Company did the paving that needed to be fixed. Manager Sutherland stated that was scheduled to be repaired soon.

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: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

City Solicitor – Solicitor Haas had no report.

Auditor Williams – Auditor Williams reported the following:

1. June's General Fund Income Tax Revenue \$1,009,482 which was \$94,601 more than the previous year. The new tax collected from 2016 was \$229,359. The total tax revenue collected was \$1,147,151, which was greater than last June's amount of \$107,427. Major Fund Balances – General Fund \$4,516,433, Streets \$397,483, Water \$6,591, Sewer -\$1,313,154, Sanitation \$337,912 and Insurance \$2,074,343.
2. He wished Councilwoman Aeh's son Mark Aeh a Happy Birthday.

The Auditor's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh's. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward – Councilman Sean Dunne reported the following:

1. He thanked everyone that took part in Service Day and especially thanked Renee Matiz for helping with an elderly woman's home on 6th Street, and Scott Leeth for coordinating the various projects.
2. He was pleased to accompany potential investors into a couple of buildings in the Boneyfiddle district, and was hopeful that one of the buildings will suit their plans.
3. He's learned more about Plant Portsmouth Day, and walked part of the street that he will be helping out on. He hoped that a large number of people would get involved in the day.
4. He stated that last week, he received the first proposed design of a skate park in Portsmouth. He thought local skaters would suggest minor revisions, but they are generally very pleased with it.
5. He met with The Scioto Foundation who was distributing the money he donated from monthly council salary payments. He was pleased to acknowledge the great work of many groups and individuals in our area, and his council salary during the first six months was donated to:
 - a. Portsmouth Area Arts Council
 - b. Seven Nations Celtic Club
 - c. The Portsmouth Homeless Shelter
 - d. Notre Dame's account that supports Spartan Municipal Stadium
 - e. Main Street Portsmouth's temporary account for fundraising efforts for a skate park and Main Street Portsmouth's account that will allow him to donate to Jeremy Burnside's Plant Portsmouth event.
6. He recently spoke to a member of the Cincinnati G.A.A. team (Irish football). He had asked their team to consider playing their annual game against Pittsburgh here in Portsmouth at Spartan Stadium.

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Aeh reported the following:

1. She had complaints on 6th & 7th Streets (could not hear, microphone must not have been on)
2. She wished her son a Happy Birthday.

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

1. He thanked Mr. Gedeon for always answering his calls and showing up right away. He said that Mr. Gedeon and the staff have taken care of a lot of grass that needed cut, some abandoned homes, and some blighted property.
2. He also thanked Mr. Gedeon and Acting Manager Sutherland for the Hutchins Street house that will be demolished soon. He said the property was dangerous and was an eye-sore.
3. He had spoken with Councilwoman Aeh about an issue in her ward on Chillicothe Street. He said that an issue was brought to his attention about the Plant Portsmouth Day that was coming up soon, the Guinness Book of World Records will be present and a lot of things were happening. He said there was a sidewalk that had been blocked off for months between 3rd & 4th Street and he believed that it belonged to the college. He understood that some pieces of the rubber roof had fallen which was why it was initially blocked, however the sidewalk needs to be opened because there will be people that will be walking down that sidewalk and the City doesn't want them walking out into the street. He said that a property owner could not just block off their sidewalk and leave it blocked permanently. He believed if there was a safety issue with the building that Shawnee State needed to get the problem fixed, but the City needed the sidewalk to be open for our resident's to be able to walk downtown as there was no reason for it to be permanently blocked off. He asked Acting City Manager Sutherland to reach out to Shawnee State.

4th Ward – Councilman Albrecht reported the following:

1. He has had several complaints about high weeds and was able to get it taken care of and also had complaints about snakes and opossums.

5th Ward – Councilman Meadows had no report.

6th Ward – Councilman Lowe reported the following:

1. He thanked whomever was responsible for cleaning up 5503 3rd Street in Sciotoville.
2. He said that there was a house at 5534 Wilson that needed cleaned up, it was an eyesore. He said that there were people that had their houses for sale and when potential buyers pull up to look at the house, they also look around and see the blighted home. He said there was a minivan that was blocking the sidewalk along with a lot of junk, grass and trash and he requested that it be cleaned up. He said he thought the City had sent notices and when they spoke with the homeowner, they were told that it was being sold on a verbal land contract.
3. He wished Mark Aeh a Happy Birthday.
4. He wished his sister in heaven a Happy Birthday.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:06 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Lowe.