

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

Monday August 12, 2019

6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday August 12, 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
Charlotte Gordon	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 Councilman Albrecht. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes –0 nays.**

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Regular Session of July 22, 2019 and Special Session of July 30, 2019 on a motion by Councilman Albrecht. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes –0 nays.**

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.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, since 1979, the Southern Ohio Senior games has been a top-quality athletic competition which promotes healthy lifestyles and physical activity for both men and women age 50 and over; and

Whereas, Ohio Senior Olympics State Games and National Senior Games Association received the “Serve Ohio Award” from the Governor of Ohio in 2018 and will be hosting different events in Portsmouth throughout the month of September. The games will begin at the Southern Ohio Medical Life Center on August 31st with a 5K & 10K Run and 10K cycling event and will end in Portsmouth with a Men’s and Women’s Pickleball Tournament on September 15th. There will also be a Horseshoe and Cornhole Tournament on September 28th in Chillicothe, Ohio at Sherman Memorial Park; and

Whereas, we would like to encourage both men and women 50 and over as well as Non-Ohio seniors to participate in these games.

Now, THEREFORE, I, Kevin E. Johnson, Acting Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2019 as: SOUTHERN OHIO SENIOR GAMES MONTH

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance amending Section 941.20(a) –Weeds, Grass, Vines, Brush and Shrubbery; Maintenance of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.

Councilman Albrecht moved that this constitute a second reading.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing reestablishing the positions of a Heavy Equipment Operator to the Traffic Division and an additional Utility Person to the Cemetery Division of the Public Service Department and appropriating funds in the amount of \$65,000 to the respective payroll and benefits line items to do so.

Councilman Albrecht moved that this constitute a first reading.

Councilwoman Gordon asked if it was two separate positions a Heavy Equipment Operator and a Utility Person to work the Cemetery and if so, were the salaries \$65,000 each or was that a combined salary to which Manager Sutherland replied that it was two positions and the amount was combined to take care of benefits.

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 authorizing the appropriation of \$16,000.00 from Streets Construction and Repair Fund Number 231 to be paid from Streets Bridges and Culverts Line Item Number 231.335.5514 to replace the culvert at Lynn and Shoemaker Streets in Sciotoville. 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.

Councilman Albrecht moved that this constitute a first reading.

Councilman Lowe requested that this ordinance be put through as an emergency, he explained that one side of the culvert was completely washed out and it needs to be fixed.

Councilman Albrecht withdrew his motion and Councilman Lowe motioned to suspend the three-reading rule based on the emergency necessity.

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

Councilman Albrecht moved that the ordinance be passed.

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

Ord. #52-2019
Culvert
repair on Lyn
& Shoemaker
Streets in
Sciotoville

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Shawn Lamb – 3226 Old Post Road-Portsmouth, Ohio – He read a statement about the city and sustainability. He read the quality of a town was often defined by how many different services and features it had in close proximity, things of convenience like supermarkets, pharmacies, restaurants, child care facilities and library etc. People have their homes, their jobs in a space that wasn't necessarily home or work, it was more like the living room of society at large. It's a place where you're not family or a co-worker (not audible). It's a place of possibility and Portsmouth for several years has had some of the same restaurants and bars in which many of these have liquor licenses that were tied up and kept new businesses such as additional bars and restaurants out of being able to compete. He was bringing a new business to the Portsmouth area at 416 and 418 Chillicothe Street, the establishment will be for everyone much more than your average bar. It will be an entertainment facility that will bring about 20 jobs to Portsmouth and will offer live music, alcohol etc. and a restaurant menu unlike anything that Portsmouth currently has. It will include an arcade featuring full cabinet games, pinball machines and a lounge area that will allow for pool tables, foosball tables, ping pong tables, and cornhole boards and more. It will be a place for college students and locals to go for fun and entertainment. The sustainability aspect would be that the more we have the less we have to travel for goods, services and amenities; the less we travel prevents lower emissions especially if this is within walking distance of their homes or dorms. He explained that a part of their business would be from the liquor license, and they have been advised that if Portsmouth City Officials request a revitalization of the area, they would be able to obtain an additional 5-10 liquor license for new businesses to help keep the Second and Chillicothe Streets growing. He asked that the city request a revitalization of that area. He reiterated the reason being if they purchase a liquor license for their establishment from a Broker it would be about \$15,000 and if this request was granted it would only cost approximately \$2,400 which would help them to compete with other businesses.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

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

1. She received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control a request for a transfer of ownership for JJ's Drive Thru and Convenient Mart located at 842 11th Street Portsmouth, Ohio There were no objections.
2. She attended the Wine and Dine event also hosted by Main Street Portsmouth and stated that it was fun and generated a lot of activity up and down the streets of Portsmouth.
3. She prepared and received the Oath of Office for Charlotte Gordon for 2nd Ward Councilwoman.
4. She attended the Roy Rogers Character Breakfast and met a lot of wonderful people.
5. She attended the Farm to Table Dinner hosted by Main Street Portsmouth at the Friends Community Center. This was one of their annual fundraising events, it was well attended and fun.

6. She received via email on August 2, 2019 from the Auditor's office, the following summary statements of the Combined MTD/YTD reports for the period ending July 31, 2019: Expense, Revenue and Fund.
7. She prepared a Proclamation for the grand opening of the Spock Memorial Dog Park and attended the event. She commended all who had a part in making this happen for our community.
8. She received a thank you letter from Southern Ohio Performing Arts Association for the Hotel Motel Award given earlier this year.
9. She prepared a Proclamation for the Ohio Senior Olympics State Games as well as Proclamations for the upcoming retirement of Bruce Barney and Juan Shipley.
10. She offered sincere condolences to Councilman Meadows and his family with the loss of his mother.

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

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

1. He expressed his condolences to Councilman Meadows family.
2. He explained to Council that they will be renting a piece of equipment to complete the 2nd Street waterline project and possibly in the future he would like to purchase that piece of equipment so that the city could start doing a lot of the big house tear downs and heavy construction in-house in lieu of farming it out and hopefully make some of these projects go more expeditiously.

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

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

1. He chaired the Board of Health meeting on July 24th.
2. He visited with Councilman Lowe and Manager Sutherland in Sciotoville regarding some paving issues and other property issues. He hoped that those issues would be resolved.
3. He attended the grand opening of Spock Memorial Dog Park and he would let Councilman Dunne elaborate more, but he said some great people did some great things.
4. He said that they were still having speeding issues in the city and explained that Grant Street and Coles Boulevard as well as some side streets were like race tracks. He said that a cat was hit close to his house the other day because the cars were speeding.
5. He expressed his condolences to Councilman Meadows and his family; his heart goes out to him and he's very deeply sorry.

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

Solicitor Haas' Report – Solicitor Haas had no report.

Auditor Williams Report – Mr. Williams reported the following:

1. He welcomed the new 2nd Ward Councilwoman Charlotte Gordon to the table.
2. He said that a fantastic job was done on the dog park and it was a fabulous addition to our downtown. He added that his two dogs have already enjoyed it immensely many times.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward – Councilman Sean Dunne reported the following:

1. He welcome Councilwoman Gordon to the table and looked forward to working together.
2. He said that it was good to hear a positive number on enrollment at Shawnee State University. It was great for our city and for the institution getting the enrollment up.
3. He said that there were still issues with cats in the first ward and other parts of the city, specifically on Noel Drive and 22nd Street. He was trying to work with the Health Department to address the issue, but it had caused a lot of stress for several of the residents.
4. He spoke with regard to the liquor license policy and the revitalization effort and was very interested in learning more about the pros and cons of having the downtown designated as a revitalization district.
5. He was asked about the sidewalk ordinances and whether more could be added for clarity of the responsibility of looking after the sidewalks in the downtown area. This would include a clear definition of what makes up each part of the sidewalk as other cities do, as he was not sure that there was clarity in the current ordinances.
6. He received a request about the issues that have recently transpired regarding the mass shootings in other parts of our country as well as our State in Dayton, Ohio. He said that a resident communicated

to him a concern about the rise of violent white supremacist movements that we're seeing in the United States and elsewhere. He said that he had traveled to Dayton, Ohio to protest the KKK, he did see a lot of opposition to their message and it was a cause of concern for this resident.

7. He thought the Dog Park grand opening was an excellent event. The organization of the grand opening included a surprise visit from Spock's handler Al Lewis and also surprise visitors from Columbus, Ohio that had a connection with fallen Police Officers that were being remembered on the plaque in the center of the walkway; all of this was brought together by Joseph Pratt of Main Street Portsmouth and it was a really great event. He initially thought there would only be about 20-30 people but the estimates received was that it was over 200 people with plenty of dogs, and he noticed that Urban (Clerk Ratliff's dog) partied pretty hard. He said it was great to drive by the park every day and to see the conversion of that space into something that's so full of energy and full of a variety of interactions with not just dogs, but for the citizens of our city. He added that it was a great achievement by our City Council and City Government to get it done with a Parks and Recreation budget of \$-0- for two years in a row, which he felt was short sided, but getting something like this in our city develops a community atmosphere that was incredible. He said a lot of different people were involved from the design to the development of the park. There was also help from community members, the Community Development office, the Water Department which installed all of the water lines, the City Manager's office, and City Council. Everyone came together to make this park possible.
8. He expressed his condolences to Councilman Meadows; he knew that he was very close with his mother.

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Charlotte Gordon reported the following:

1. She thanked Clerk Ratliff for all of her time and getting all of the paperwork completed.
2. She thanked Manager Sutherland for taking the time to meet with her.
3. She congratulated Councilman Dunne and everyone else for the awesome Dog Park. It was a really fun event.
4. She has been in communication with her predecessor Jo Ann Aeh and was very appreciative for the help and support she has given.
5. She has gone out and started speaking with constituents in her ward, meeting with Allison Bower at 2nd Presbyterian Church and Thomas Bailey who had a lot of good ideas and she will be meeting with him again to go over his ideas. She's met with a couple of the Board members from the Community Center and she looked forward to reaching out to them.
6. She extended her sincerest condolences to Councilman Meadows.

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

1. He thanked Manager Sutherland for taking care of several residential issues for him.
2. He thanked Andy Gedeon of the Health Department, for always doing a fantastic job.
3. He reminded the audience because there were some new faces, that when the public addresses Council during the meeting, Council was not permitted to ask questions and he explained that they hear what the public is saying but by protocol Council cannot interact.

4th Ward – Councilman Albrecht reported the following:

1. He welcomed Councilwoman Gordon to Council.
2. He extended his condolences to Councilman Meadows and his family for the loss of his mother.
3. He also extended condolences to the family of Dr. Joseph Valli, he treated him for back issues and he was a great person and chiropractor.
4. He received complaints about parking on the wrong side of the street. He said that there is current legislation Council is considering about grass cuttings to protect motorcyclist and when people park on the wrong side of the street, they have to pull out across a lane of traffic and its really dangerous for bicyclist and motorcyclist. He would like to see more enforcement of the law because there is an ordinance against it and it should be enforced.
5. He said that he's received complaints about people running red lights at the intersection of Gallia and Young Street. It's very dangerous for all who share the road.
6. He said that nothing had been done about the overgrown weeds at 10th & Hutchins and he had reports about prostitutes taking their John's in there. If it were cleared out, it would alleviate some of the problem.
7. He said that there is still a camping trailer on Gallia Street and there is an ordinance against living in camping trailers within the City of Portsmouth and it should be addressed. There was also a camping trailer at Grant & Mound Street and also noticed yet another trailer when he went by today. He had heard that Mr. Winters could not enter the property because there was a dog, and suggested taking the Humane Officer as well as a Police Officer. People cannot live in camping trailers in the City of Portsmouth and the rules apply to everyone.

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

6th Ward – Councilman Lowe reported the following:

1. He welcomed Councilwoman Gordon to the table and looked forward to working with her.
2. He received some complaints on the Valley Street properties. He said there were people going in and out of these burned out houses and he has instructed the complainants to call the police when they see this kind of activity.
3. He received a phone call from Mr. Watkins who had noticed that the grass ordinance was to be amended and he asked if there was any ordinance regarding gravel washing out onto the road. Mr. Lowe said that around Milldale some people have gravel driveways and Mr. Watkins has called him over the past 3-4 years about sand and gravel washing out onto the road after a big rain and it washes onto his property. Mr. Watkins wanted to know who was responsible for the clean-up.
4. He thanked Councilman Dunne for all of the work he had done on the Dog Park, he was amazed at the turnout and that it was a good thing for our community.
5. He thanked Manager Sutherland for having a steel plate installed on Harding Avenue, there was a problem there but the plate would help in the meantime.
6. He congratulated and thanked Habitat for Humanity for building the first Veterans Home in Scioto County on Bonser Avenue. He's proud to say that it is in his ward because he's a veteran.
7. He extended condolences to his friend and Councilman Meadows on his Mom's passing.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

City Clerk

Acting Mayor