

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 Monday August 27, 2018
 6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday August 27, 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 <i>Absent</i>
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.

Councilman Meadow’s absence was excused on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 5 – nays 0.**

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Regular Session of August 13, 2018 and Special Session August 15, 2018 on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 5 – nays 0.**

There was no Public Hearing.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, True Lure was founded by Todd Dunn and is a 501c3 organization that provides disabled Veterans and children the opportunity to experience a realistic hunt without causing harm to the animal; and

Whereas, every year the deer have to be tranquilized to provide annual vaccinations and tending to their antlers. The procedure was adapted and utilized to provide a special experience to those who are unable to hunt under regular circumstances. This mentoring program allows the Veteran to teach the child how to use a dart gun and gives a child one on one lessons in hunting without ever killing a deer; and

Whereas, this organization has made a huge impact in the lives of Veterans and Children with Physical and Developmental Disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kevin E. Johnson, Acting Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as:

**Proclamation
 No Kill Deer
 Hunt**

TRUE LURE “NO KILL” DEER HUNT MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 27th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Eighteen.

There was another Proclamation to be read for the Wheelersburg Pirates World Series Champion Softball team however a representative did not show. Council decided to read it at a later date in hopes that a representative might be able to attend. Acting Mayor Johnson tipped his hat to this girls’ team.

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was no one present who wished to comment on items on the agenda.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of an additional \$65,000.00 to New WTP Fund No. 606.771.5515 needed to pay certain costs associated with the new Water Treatment Plant Preliminary Design and Property Acquisition.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned 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 **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$36,000.00 from General Fund No. 101 to Public Service Department- Garage Division Fund No. 101.117 line items for wages and benefits for a Mechanic I position which was not funded in the 2018 budget.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a second reading.

Councilman Lowe stated that this had to be done because it was not in the budget and Acting Manager Sutherland stated that was correct. Mr. Lowe asked if it was the former administrations fault. Solicitor Haas noted for the record that since the former City Manager was being disparaged, he believed Mr. Allen's plan had been to not hire a mechanic and to farm that work out to local businesses because of some of the wait times and he was not in a rush to hire a new mechanic. He also stated that when the budget was presented to Council, no one asked one question about it.

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 an additional appropriation from unappropriated monies in General Fund No. 101 in the amount of \$64,000.00 to Emergency Demolitions Line Item No. 101.112.5231 needed for additional teardowns in year 2018.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that 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 authorizing the appropriation of a total of \$175,693 from unappropriated monies in CIP Fund No. 301 for the Mound Park, Lighting, Security and Pathway Projects.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that 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.**

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Stephanie Phillips Dewitt – 1716 Highland Avenue Portsmouth, OH – She spoke in representation of the Skate Park project. She reviewed the tentative plans of locating the Skate Park at the currently underutilized playground at Madison Street. She added that instead of getting rid of the playground equipment, they had discussed with members of the 14th Street Community Board and suggested that the City donate that equipment to them for renovation and reuse by their committee at a different location. She stated that they had secured the manpower to move the equipment and renovate it which was being donated by a local company. The design of the park had been provided by Spohn Ranch, they've constructed State Parks in Dublin and Newark. She said that basically the Skate Park Committee aimed to fund the project with private donations, in-kind donations and some grant applications. They've had numerous community members and businesses express their support for the Skate Park to be in our area.

Aaron Wright - 90 Greenbrier Road Wheelersburg, OH – He was a Board member of the Skate Park, he said that currently they have two buildings that they work out of, one of those being the 14th Street Community Center and the other was the 17th Street Armory. He said currently they were trying to get improvements to the Armory and trying to make it a better place for the residents at Kendall Heights *formerly Wayne Hills* and trying to help improve that community. He would like to see that playground equipment moved up to the Armory which would make it more welcoming for kids and help with their program.

Brian Smith – 2642 Shawnee Road Portsmouth, OH – He lived in Portsmouth half of his life and moved to California for 10 years and then moved back to Portsmouth and had been actively involved in Skateboarding. He reiterated that it would be privately funded through fund raising efforts, grants and in-kind donations. He's a contractor and his Dad had a construction business and they know quite a few people and businesses that would be a part of that in-kind donation by donating equipment, top soil, concrete, to all of the things that would be needed and it would not be city funded. He said that basically they needed the approval for the use of the property. This would be something unique for Portsmouth.

Councilwoman Aeh moved to adjourn into Executive Session with the City Manager to discuss personnel issues relating to City Manager applications. The role was called and the motion carried: **VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays, Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:20 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 6:32 p.m.**

Councilwoman Aeh stated that as announced previously that Council would determine a short list of three candidates, she nominated the following: Sam Sutherland, Nathan Burd and Robert Ware.

There were no other nominations and the roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 5 – nays 0, Sam Sutherland, Nathan Burd and Robert Ware were confirmed as candidates for the position of City Manager.**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

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

1. She prepared and administered the Oath of Office for Scottie Powell who is the new member of the Civil Service Commission.
2. She prepared the Proclamation for the True Lure “No Kill” Deer Hunt.
3. She prepared the Proclamation for the Wheelersburg Little League Girls Softball team who won the World Series in Portland Oregon.
4. She received the Oath of Office for Tori Stonebreaker as a Police Officer.

Oath of Office
 for Scottie
 Powell Civil
 Service and
 Oath of Office
 for Tori
 Stonebreaker
 Police Officer

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.**

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 met with the State Auditor's office and Auditor Williams to discuss the 2018 section of the Financial Recovery Plan.
3. He was still working with EMA to get reimbursed on the flood damage costs.
4. He attended the Lawrence-Scioto Solid Waste policy meeting.
5. He participated in the Plant Portsmouth project and a few employees volunteered and spruced up around the City Building and got things looking better.
6. He thanked all of the folks that turned out Saturday to clean up the east bound lane of Route 52 from the Water Plant to State Route 140, getting the weeds and debris out from the dividing wall. He thanked Stephanie and Chris Neff for organizing the event.

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: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

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

1. He stated that Council would begin the interview process on Monday September 10, 2018 in a Special Session beginning at 1:00 but he would like the candidates to be here at least half an hour before their set interview time. The interviews will be conducted in Executive Session.
2. He attended the Special Session on August 15th to review City Manager resumes.
3. He attended the State Accreditation for the Portsmouth Board of Health Department.
4. He participated in the Plant Portsmouth project on August 18th and thanked all of those that volunteered for the Plant Portsmouth event.
5. He chaired the monthly Board of Health meeting on August 22nd.
6. He would like to re-appoint Jenny LeMaster to the Board of Health.
7. He again congratulated the Wheelersburg Softball team and hopefully the Proclamation could be read in the near future.

Re-appointed
 Jenny
 LeMaster to
 the Board of
 Health

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.**

City Solicitor – Solicitor Haas had no report.

Auditor Williams – Auditor Williams had no report

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward – Councilman Sean Dunne reported the following:

1. He participated in Plant Portsmouth and it was great to see the many volunteers and members of the community taking part in the event.
2. He was contacted by a New York Times Journalist who had previously written about Portsmouth in what many people felt wasn't the most positive article. He shared with the Journalist the different ways that the community was developing from different people becoming involved and the different activities. He believed that she would be coming to Portsmouth in the fall to write about the new developments in Portsmouth. He thought it was great that Portsmouth would get national attention for positive things and he included the volunteers for the Portsmouth Skate Park project.
3. He noted that if we wished to avoid being reactionary, we needed to be pro-active and this was what the Skate Park group was trying to do in providing a new activity in our area. The company

that they were using had worked around the country and have been involved in million dollar projects in Dublin and \$800,000 project in Newark. He said the goals of this group were trying to work with the very best for our area.

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Aeh reported the following:

1. She stated that she read a Proclamation at Compass Community Health located on 11th Street in recognition of National Health Center week.

**Proclamation
 National
 Health
 Center Week**

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

1. He would be compiling a list of abandoned properties with a lot of grass issues that need to be bush hogged or cut. He will forward them to Acting City Manager Sutherland and Andy Gedeon of the Health Department.
2. He commented that he knew Offnere Street would be paved soon.
3. He mentioned the City's friends Bob & Debbie Gambill and all of the work that they've been doing at Greenlawn Cemetery through the "Friends of Greenlawn". He also mentioned the staff at the cemetery that had been cutting the grass and he added that Greenlawn Cemetery is a treasure for our city.
4. He acknowledged his approval of the Skateboard Park and the ideas that come from thinking outside the box.

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 Plant Portsmouth people.
2. He also thanked Brian Davis for his cleanup with the Acting Manager as well as Mr. Neff and his family and all of the volunteers.
3. He thanked Andy Gedeon and Tiffany Hedrick on an issue at 1904 Valley Street as well as Sam Sutherland for handling the issue.
4. He wished the East Tartans the best in their upcoming season.
5. He commented to Mr. Haas that whenever he made a disparaging remark he would know about it and until then he would appreciate it if he would just be quiet.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh.

City Clerk

Acting Mayor