

**MINUTES – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
 Monday, January 4, 2016  
7:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met for their Organization meeting on Monday, January 4, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Solicitor, John Haas, called the meeting to order. A moment of silent prayer was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Solicitor Haas called for nominations for the selection of a temporary Chairperson. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson nominated Solicitor Haas. Solicitor Haas called for other nominations and there were none.

The motioned carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, Solicitor Haas was appointed as temporary Chairman.**

Chairman Haas called for nominations for acting City Clerk. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson nominated Diana Ratliff. Chairman Haas called for other nominations and there were none.

The motioned carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, Diana Ratliff was appointed as acting City Clerk.**

Solicitor Haas administered the Oath of Office for Councilwoman Jo Ann Aeh for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, Councilman James D. Kalb for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward and Councilman Thomas K. Lowe for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Chairman Haas called for a motion to accept the letter on performance bonds from the City Auditor.

Auditor Williams stated that he didn't remember there being a vote and Chairman Haas requested that a vote be taken for the record. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept the letter. Auditor Williams explained the intent of the letter and that he was required to make sure that he had received all bonds for the newly elected and existing officials and those were all kept in his office with the exception of his bond and it was kept in the City Clerk's office.

The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, the performance bond was accepted.**

Roll Call showed the following member to be present:

Kevin W. Johnson	1 <sup>st</sup> Ward
Jo Ann Aeh	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward
James D. Kalb	4 <sup>th</sup> Ward
Gene Meadows	5 <sup>th</sup> Ward
Thomas K. Lowe	6 <sup>th</sup> Ward

Also present were City Manager Derek K. Allen; City Solicitor, John Haas, City Auditor, M. Trent Williams and Acting City Clerk Diana Ratliff

Chairman Haas opened nominations for President of Council with the title of Mayor.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson nominated James D. Kalb for President of Council with the title of Mayor.

Chairman Haas called for other nominations and there were none and he asked for a motion to close the nominations in which Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to close the nominations by acclamation.

There were no other nominations and the roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, Councilman James Kalb was appointed Mayor.**

Chairman Haas opened nominations for Vice President of Council.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to nominate Kevin E. Johnson for Vice President of Council.

Chairman Haas called for other nominations, Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to close the nominations, and Chairman Haas asked if there were any objections.

There were no other nominations or objections and the roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, Councilman Kevin E. Johnson was appointed Vice President.**

**Elected James D. Kalb as President of Council with title of Mayor**

**Elected Kevin E. Johnson as Vice President of Council**

Chairman Haas opened nominations for City Clerk.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned that Diana Ratliff be appointed as City Clerk.

Chairman Haas called for other nominations.

There were no other nominations and the roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, Diana Ratliff was appointed City Clerk.**

Solicitor Haas administered the Oath of Office to City Clerk Ratliff., Mayor Kalb and Vice President Kevin E. Johnson,

Chairman Haas asked for a motion to accept the rules of City Council setting the times and dates of regular Council meetings.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to adopt current rules of City Council which sets the dates and times that Council shall meet. He also introduced amendments to the rules, they are as follows:

1. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson stated that on occasion Council would bring up “Tabled” items but did not have a way to note them on the Agenda so that the public would know when an issue might be brought off the “Table”. He moved to add to “Order of Business” a new item #8 “Unfinished Business” which was allowed by that term by Roberts Rules, if accepted current Item #8 would become Item #9 etc.

Chairman Haas stated that there was a motion to amend the rules of City Council to add as item #8 entitled “Unfinished Business” and asked if there were any questions or comments:

There were no questions or comments and the roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, the amendment was added to the rules.**

2. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson stated that the next amendment was found under “Motions and Speaking from the Floor” in the rules and he introduced the change from “Mayor’s Conference Agenda” to “City Manager’s Conference Agenda”.

Chairman Haas stated that there was a motion to amend paragraph #5 with respect to changing the Mayor’s Conference Agenda to the City Manager’s Conference Agenda.

There were no other questions or comments and the roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, the amendment was made to the rules.**

3. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson introduced the last amendment which was also located in paragraph #5 by adding: “All legislation, **“including council appointments”**, shall be introduced at the City Manager’s Conference Agenda etc.

Chairman Haas stated that the rule also amends paragraph #5 and asked if the highlighted portion **“including council appointments”** would be the change. Councilman Kevin W. Johnson said that was correct and that currently all legislation was required to be introduced during the City Manager’s Conference Agenda and this would include Council appointments. Councilman Meadows questioned the wording “including” stating that it should be **“All legislation and council appointments”** and Councilman Kevin W. Johnson agreed with the friendly amendment. Solicitor Haas explained that currently if the Mayor appoints someone to a committee during his Mayor’s Report and Council doesn’t agree with the appointment they vote against accepting his report. He asked Councilman Kevin W. Johnson if he wanted the appointment to be effective at the Manager’s Conference and Councilman Johnson replied “No” and said that all he was looking for was the opportunity to discuss appointments in which Council could provide input and feedback to the Mayor before the appointments were made. Currently there are no discussions prior to the appointments. Councilman Lowe asked when Council was made aware of appointments and Mr. Johnson responded that was the whole concept of introducing the amendment so that Council could be made aware of upcoming appointments prior to the actual appointment. Mr. Johnson stated that it gave Council a chance to provide input or ideas and it would be advising Council upfront before the appointment. City Manager Allen stated that he could add “Appointments” to his agenda, however because his packet goes out one full week prior to the meeting, the potential appointment would need to be given to him early so that it could be listed on his agenda. Councilman Kevin E. Johnson stated that it doesn’t affect the decision making process if the Mayor wanted to make an appointment and there was negative feedback, he could still make the appointment. Solicitor Haas stated that if the appointment was made during the Mayor’s report and Council voted against accepting the report, then the person would not be appointed. Mayor Kalb asked about Council appointments as there was no vote, Councilman Kevin W. Johnson stated that this proposal was more for feedback and he welcomed any comments on potential appointments, but as a good member of Council he would be listening to the feedback. Councilwoman Aeh stated that if a Councilmember appoint someone from their ward, they should have the opportunity to appoint whomever they want and Councilman Kevin W. Johnson agreed. Councilwoman Aeh went on to

Re-  
 appointed  
 Diana  
 Ratliff as  
 City Clerk

say, that if the Ordinance that set up a committee states “with the approval of Council” then they should know ahead of time and Councilman Kevin W. Johnson said those were two different issues and he appreciated that opportunity, but he may not have anyone to suggest for an appointment and would be looking for someone to appoint. In order to be fair, he requested that all appointments go forward.

There were no other questions or comments and the roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, the amendment was made to the rules.**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson moved that the rules of Council be adopted as amended.

There were no questions or comments, the roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, the amended rules of Council were adopted.**

**REMARKS FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL:**

There was no one present who wanted to address members of City Council.

**REMARKS TO THE CITIZENS BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**1st Ward** – Councilman Kevin W. Johnson wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**2nd Ward** – Councilwoman Aeh wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**3rd Ward** – Councilman Kevin E. Johnson said Happy New Year to everyone and he said that he was very honored to serve the city that he loved and he thanked his fellow councilmembers for the appointment as Vice President. He thanked the citizens and stated that he looked forward to 2016.

**4th Ward** – Councilman Kalb thanked the voters for the opportunity to serve and his fellow councilmembers for their confidence in him as President/Mayor of Council again. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**5th Ward** – Councilman Meadows had no report.

**6th Ward** – Councilman Lowe thanked the people of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward for electing him and he hoped to do good things. He thanked all of Council for accepting him.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson.

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City Clerk

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Mayor