

**MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION**

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
 Tuesday November 13, 2018  
 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Tuesday November 13, 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 <sup>st</sup> Ward
Jo Ann Aeh	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward
Jerrold Albrecht	4 <sup>th</sup> Ward
Gene Meadows	5 <sup>th</sup> Ward
Thomas K. Lowe	6 <sup>th</sup> Ward

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

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Regular Session of October 22, 2018 on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0.**

There was no Public Hearing.

Councilwoman Aeh made a motion to recess into Executive Session with the City Manager as the Solicitor is not in attendance to discuss three items: 1. Possible litigation 2. Possible sale of city property 3. Receive an update on the Union contracts/wage reopeners.

The role was called and the motion carried: **VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nays, Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:05 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 6:54 p.m.**

**STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

**Dan Seitz 745 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – Portsmouth, Ohio** – He introduced himself as the owner of Seitz Solutions, he gave background on Seitz Solutions. He, Kyle Webb and Chris McCallister are all employees and have been doing the I.T. work for the city for approximately six years and would like to continue. He said Kyle was a 2014 graduate of Shawnee State University, Chris McCallister is a recent graduate of Shawnee State University and his ties to Portsmouth was that his daughter is currently enrolled at Shawnee State University. He said if anyone had any questions, they would be available after the meeting to answer them.

**LEGISLATION**

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$35,000.00 into Water Works Fund No. 606 and the appropriation of the same into Sunrise Water Main Line Item No. 606.771.5530 received from Ohio EPA for expenses of the thirty-inch (30”) Waterline Project.

**Ord. #52 – 2018  
 Acceptance of  
 \$35,000 in  
 Water Works  
 Fund for  
 Sunrise  
 Waterline  
 project**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be passed.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a permanent easement agreement with Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., as described and depicted by Exhibit “A” attached hereto, the same area of Sunrise Avenue as the temporary easement passed by Ordinance No. 27 on May 14, 2018.

**Ord. #53 – 2018  
 Easement to  
 Columbia Gas  
 for Sunrise  
 Avenue**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be passed.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$60,000 from General Fund Management Consultants Line Item No. 101.119.5234 to cover current and future expenses for 2018 to pay for IT Services provided by Seitz Solutions per a 2016 agreement.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a second reading.

Acting Mayor Johnson thanked Seitz Solutions for attending the meeting.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Auditor to amend appropriations to reflect actual revenues and expenditures in order to balance and close the City's books for the fiscal year 2018.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a first reading.

Acting Mayor Johnson stated that this was just a housekeeping measure that was done every year.

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

#### **STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There was no one present that wished to address Council on items not on the agenda.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:**

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

1. Received via email on November 2, 2018 from the Auditor's office, the following summary statements of the Combined MTD/YTD reports for the period ending October 31, 2018: Expense, Revenue and Fund.
2. Prepared the Proclamation for 100 year old Margaret Amelia Victoria Burk Kuhn.
3. Reminder: Christmas Parade – Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup>.
4. She asked Council to be thinking about what they want to do in December as the last Council meeting falls on Christmas Eve which is a holiday and suggested moving it up a week for December 17<sup>th</sup>.

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.**

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

1. His written report can be found on the city's website [www.portsmouthoh.org](http://www.portsmouthoh.org).
2. He advised Council and the public that the contractor for the waterline project will start the project back on Monday November 19<sup>th</sup>. He asked the citizens to be careful in that area and to use Waller Street as much as possible. He said once the project was completed, they would remove the no parking signs on Waller Street.

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: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

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

1. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> he met with the Scioto County Economic team and Brownfield representatives to discuss a \$300,000 grant for cleanup around the water plant property.
2. On October 29<sup>th</sup> he met with City Manager Sutherland concerning various issues in the city.
  - a. Looked at an upcoming request to vacate an alley to move a fence and expand a ballfield.
  - b. Looked and discussed options for removing a tree that had grown through the fence at Greenlawn Cemetery.
  - c. Looked at some road issues on Timlin Hill
  - d. Looked at some alley cleanups (old mattresses etc.) and those were now scheduled to be picked up through the Service Department.
3. On November 5<sup>th</sup> he attended an unveiling of a Neighborhood Watch sign at Mound Park along with City Manager Sutherland, Police Chief Ware, Fire Chief Raison and Neighborhood Watch Director Karen Lynette. Some of the neighbors were also in attendance. He said there would be 15 signs initially placed around the city where the neighborhood watches were in effect. He said the program had seen great results and the signs were a great deterrent across the city.

4. On November 10<sup>th</sup> he had the honor of reading a Proclamation for Mrs. Margaret Burk Kuhn, who is a resident of Portsmouth and celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The event was held at St. Mary's recreation center, many guests were in attendance both local and out of town. He heard a lot of compliments from folks visiting our city, talking about how nice and clean our city was and they also spoke about the murals.
5. He recognized the Portsmouth Police Department for patrolling the streets on Trick or Treat night. Their light bars were turned on to insure that everyone had a safe night.
6. He also recognized the Portsmouth Police and Fire Departments for their presence at the Portsmouth High School Football games, to insure safety and provide medical care if needed and being great role models for our young people.
7. He said that a downtown business had contacted him and expressed their gratitude to our Sewer Maintenance Department. The business had a problem with a sewer line that ran through the alley behind the business and they contacted the Sewer Maintenance Department and received very prompt service and immediate repairs. This business wanted him to acknowledge the Sewer Department and the great work that was done.
8. He said Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> he will be involved with the Red Kettle Bell kick-off. They will be at Kroger in a ladder truck to raise money for the Salvation Army.
9. He said that this past Saturday (November 10<sup>th</sup>) he heard a noise in the alley behind his house and it was the Service Department. They were picking up old mattresses, dumped garbage and cleaning up the alleys. He acknowledged Mr. Beaumont and his crew for their efforts.

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.**

**Solicitor Haas' Report** – Solicitor Haas had no report due to absence. Acting Mayor Johnson asked Clerk Ratliff if he by chance left a report, she replied that he did not, but that he had out of town depositions and was on his way back to town but traffic was halted due to a traffic accident in South Bloomfield.

**Auditor Williams Report** – Mr. Williams thanked Seitz Solutions for being in attendance and confirmed that they were very knowledgeable and dependable. He appreciated being able to reach out to them and have action taken right away.

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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ward** – Councilman Sean Dunne reported the following:

1. He thanked Chris Smith, Gary Tindall and members of the Portsmouth Health Department for helping out with the current application to ODNR for the Skate Park grant. They have provided a lot of useful information.
2. He thanked Tracy Shearer and Trent Williams for helping get the Stadium painted. This was made possible by two different grants, one was from State Farm and the other from the Scioto Foundation.
3. He said that it was great to hear that Community Development Director Tracy Shearer received a grant from the ODNR to assist with the Multi-Use path.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ward** – Councilwoman Aeh had no report.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ward** – Councilman Kevin E. Johnson had no report.

**4<sup>th</sup> Ward** – Councilman Albrecht reported the following:

1. He apologized to the Neighborhood Watch Committee for not being in attendance at the unveiling. He was in Circleville getting his eye operated on, but would have rather been at the gathering.

**5<sup>th</sup> Ward** – Councilman Meadows reported the following:

1. He would like to clear the record and wished that Solicitor Haas had been in attendance. He said there was an email floating around regarding the sewer service issue in the County and the lack of payment. He said read part of an email that Solicitor Haas had sent on October 31<sup>st</sup> to the County "Failure to pay by any other customer would have resulted in cessation of services, in fact, Councilman Gene Meadows was the driving force on Council regarding the collection of delinquent utility bills during his term. Even he has remained patient despite the hundreds of thousands of dollars due the city." He had a problem with that, he acknowledged that when elected to Council, he had been doing some title searches and had seen where business properties in the City were thousands of dollars delinquent in their water bills which made the titles unmarketable. He did pursue that and pushed the City Manager at that point to get those bills collected and that's true but he had never, not even one time ever made a statement that he thought the County sewer services should be shut off. He said that statement was not accurate and he notified the County Commissioners and advised them that the statement was incorrect. He wished Solicitor Haas had been present this evening to tell him why he thought that he had

said that and it was not the first time he had been used to gain an advantage in negotiating power. He recalled a time when the Police and Fire Departments were told misinformation about him. When he confronted Solicitor Haas and the former City Manager about it, they both denied it but the Police Officers told him that it happened and he believed them because he knew them and sees them all the time. He addressed the public and said that when you read information that comes out, don't assume that it's accurate, don't take it as the gospel, if somebody says he said something, he asked for them to pick up the phone, call him and asked him if he said it and why he said it. He added that if he said it, he will admit to it, as he had no problem standing by what he says.

**6<sup>th</sup> Ward** – Councilman Lowe reported the following:

1. He inquired about Tracy Shearer trying to find grants for tanks in the ground and other unknown locations that now might be residential properties. He asked Manager Sutherland if anything had come from her inquiries. Manager Sutherland said that he thought she was still talking to some folks.
2. He thanked Brian Stidham for unplugging a drain on Bonser Avenue behind Scioto Shoe Mart that always floods.
3. He advised that the Sciotoville Christmas parade was December 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Allard Park
4. He congratulated the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade Tartan Pee-Wee team who were SOC champs and had won the Super Bowl. He said those kids were the future of Sciotoville sports and he tries to support them.
5. He paid a tribute to Ron Sturgill who is former Councilman Steve Sturgill's father. He said that he was his coach when he was growing up back in the 1960's and that he was an asset to all of the kids. He was a good ballplayer and his family has gone on to be good athletes and Steve's granddaughter was knocking everything out of the park in softball. He expressed his condolences to Steve and his family on his father's passing.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh.

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City Clerk

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Acting Mayor