

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 Monday November 26, 2018
 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday November 26, 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.

Councilman Meadows advised Council that he was waiting on an important phone call and he may have to step out to answer it during the meeting.

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 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 November 13, 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.

Councilwoman Aeh made a motion to recess into Executive Session to: 1) Discuss legal issues with the Solicitor, Auditor and the City Manager. 2) To discuss contracts with the City Manager

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. with the exception of City Manager Sutherland.** Mr. Sutherland was excused due to illness on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0.**

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **third 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.

**Ord. #54 – 2018
 Payment to
 Seitz Solutions**

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 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 second reading.

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 acceptance of FEMA reimbursement funds into FEMA Grant Fund No. 261 and appropriate the same in order that funds may be distributed to the relevant departments funds from which expenditures were made.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a first reading.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing appropriations from the unencumbered balance of General Fund No. 101 to the Fire Department accounts Vehicle Appropriations No.101.223.5532 in the amount of \$140,000 and Equipment Appropriations No. 101.223.5532 in the amount of \$89,500 for a total new appropriation amount of \$229,500 for the purchase of a new ambulance and related equipment.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a first reading.

Councilman Lowe asked if this legislation should be an emergency and Chief Raison stated that he would need to order it before the end of the year and believed there would be enough time.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts with the lowest and/or best bidder for required supplies, materials and services for 2019 in accordance with Ohio Revised Code section 735.05.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a first reading.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing appropriations from the unencumbered balance of General Fund No. 101 to the General Fund Operating Transfers Account No. 101.119.5901 and transfer to Municipal Court Grant Fund No. 201 in the amount of \$140,000 to enable Portsmouth Municipal Court Probation Department to maintain the current level of operation.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a first reading.

Councilwoman Aeh stated there would be a couple of more readings and originally when this was agreed upon in August of 2017, there was a memo from the Judges that said “in order to maintain our current level of services and operation at PMC both in community corrections (probation) and community service, we are proposing the following:

We will designate our two part-time security officers as full-time employees, and we will absorb the additional expense through the expected court costs revenues.

The City Council meetings will be covered by a security officer. Both of the security officers will also be assigned afternoon duties with community service.”

Mrs. Aeh stated that they did not provide a security officer for City Council and she would like to know if they did the other things they said they were going to do when we gave them the \$140,000 in 2017. Councilman Lowe asked how we go about finding that out and Mrs. Aeh said that she would check with the City Manager.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation and transfer of funds for fiscal year 2018 as an emergency pursuant to Council Rule 5 and in accordance with Section 10 of the Charter of the City of Portsmouth in order to facilitate administration and operations and to avoid practical and/or legal entanglements.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned to suspend the three reading as requested.

The role was called. VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nays, the rule was suspended.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that the Ordinance be passed.

Acting Mayor Johnson advised the rule suspension was in place due to time restraints. Councilman Lowe asked if there was a reason why there was a time restraint. Councilwoman Aeh stated that the Council letter advised it was to make fund advances and appropriations for the Portsmouth City Health Department to cover year-end operating deficit balances in anticipation of grant reimbursements that would not be received until after the close of 2018.

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

Ord. #55 – 2018
Appropriation
and Transfer
for Health
Department
funds

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Trevor Holsinger – 130 Crull Street West Portsmouth, Ohio – He advised that he was a sociology student at Shawnee State University and they conducted a research project where he went to various streets in Portsmouth to catalog 250 houses with the GPS coordinates, conditions, tax information and a photo to get the City Health Department a better idea of the current conditions of the houses in Portsmouth. He passed around a sheet with the information that he had collected.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

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

1. She suggested the second meeting in December be held on Monday December 17, 2018 in lieu of December 24th which was a holiday. She advised that by setting this date she would have time to type the minutes before the holiday.

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.**

Councilwoman Aeh stated that by accepting the report meant that Council would be meeting on December 17, 2018.

City Manager's Report – Manager Sutherland had no report due to absence.

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

1. He participated in the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Kick-off and he thanked the Portsmouth Fire Department for having their ladder truck available for the event. They raised a lot of money throughout the day for a very worthy cause. He went 100 ft. in the air in the ladder truck and had a really good time and thanked all that were involved.
2. He reminded the folks again that our meetings in December will be the 10th and the 17th.
3. He was contacted by a citizen earlier to consider being in the Sciotoville Christmas Parade. He spoke with Councilman Lowe who advised that he would check on it and get back with everyone on the details.
4. He said that they were working on a contract for the City Manager and he thanked Councilman Meadows for all of his hard work on putting together the contract and spending the extra time, he really did a good job.

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.

Auditor Williams Report – Mr. Williams reported the following:

1. He advised that he forwarded via email his report to all of Council.
2. He responded to Acting Mayor Johnson's question regarding the sewer fund that it may look like were in great shape financially and then possibly a sinkhole would happen and had happened several times. He advised that we were moving toward a good fund balance in the sewer fund but he wasn't comfortable with it yet.

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 submitted a grant to the Land & Water Conservation Fund for the Skate Park project and the overall amount requested was \$156,000. This was also the fund that Huntington, WV utilized for their Park.

2. He said that Trevor Holsinger had done a great job in putting together the spread sheet of information and one of the things that could be done with the latitude and longitude was to plug it into Tablo Software and it would allow us to show things like a concentration of blighting or certain/specific issues in parts of the city. His work had been part of a pilot program internship with Andy Gedeon at the Department of Health. He thought that it was something that could apply towards more than just the housing stock and would allow us to have a more accurate description of the city by mapping it out.
3. He was delighted to announce that Spartan Municipal Stadium has been painted by Mike Dougherty. The cost was paid with the remaining grant money from the State Farm grant as well as the Scioto Foundation grant money. He said it looked really good and invited the public to check it out.
4. On November 19th he attended a meeting at Notre Dame High School in which an individual from Detroit, Tom Eureck traveled to Portsmouth to give some sports memorabilia to the City of Portsmouth. He was a very interesting individual who had spoken to some members of the Portsmouth Spartans at a party in the 1950's and had a recording of it. He also donated \$500 to improve the stadium and it was great to meet him in person.
5. He spoke at Thomas Buntings National Government class this afternoon and noticed that several of the students were in attendance.

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Aeh had no report.

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

1. He said he didn't have a report but thanked Trevor Holsinger for being in attendance and making a presentation. He knew that it wasn't always easy getting up in front of people.

4th Ward – Councilman Albrecht hoped everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

5th Ward – Councilman Meadows reported the following:

1. He received several calls from residents on Willow Way thanking the City for paving Willow Way this year.

6th Ward – Councilman Lowe reported the following:

1. He received a phone call about some trash around the Rose Street Apartments, it was close to the ballfields and he would like someone to look at it.
2. He said there was a house that burned down on Gallia Street around the train trestle and wondered if anything was being done about it as he believed it to be a health issue. Mr. Smith said he would have it checked and Mr. Lowe requested that an email be sent to him.
3. He commented on the Buckeye win against Michigan.
4. He hoped everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:18 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Meadows.

City Clerk

Acting Mayor