

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 8, 2010
6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on, Monday, November 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

President of Council, David Malone called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed a moment of silent prayer.

Roll Call showed the following members to be present:

Kevin Johnson	1 st Ward
David Malone	2 nd Ward
Nicholas Basham	3 rd Ward
Jerrold Albrecht	4 th Ward
John Haas	5 th Ward
Richard Noel	6 th Ward

Also present was the Auditor, M. Trent Williams.

There was no legislation to be considered.

STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Harald Daub – 1221-22nd Street acknowledged having made several suggestions to Council over the years and continued by reiterating same. He thanked Councilman Johnson for his support with regard to combining the City and County Health Departments. He suggested also combining the 911 systems and to having only one law enforcement body in the County and again suggested a metro government.

With regard to mold in the Police Department, Mr. Daub claimed this to have been an issue for fifteen years and reiterated remarks he has previously made with regard to locating all the City offices under one roof.

Referring to the recent tear down of houses, Mr. Daub felt this to be contributing to the City’s loss of tax revenue, which he felt to be putting a burden on the remaining residents.

He returned back to the subject of the Police Department and suggested the Chief “put his money where his mouth is” saying he should use money from the \$100,000.00 plus that he has in the “Police Slush Fund” to help pay the cost of another building. He also felt there would be money forthcoming from the Marting’s Foundation to help with this expense. He further claimed the condition of the Adelphia to be an embarrassment to the City.

Mary Webb - 1090 Noel Drive identified herself as a widow of a former police officer, whom she said would turn over in his grave, if he knew how the police were being treated. She claimed they have been forced to work under unhealthy conditions while risking their lives every day. She felt the police to have been treated like “second class citizens”. She requested the police department be treated with the respect they deserve and allow the purchase of the building on Clare Street.

Miscellaneous business and reports:

The Clerk had nothing to report.

President’s Report

1. Apologized to Councilman Johnson for stating, at the last meeting, that he had not received the traffic study. He advised that when he went home and searched he found it and the recommendation.

The President’s report was received, filed and made a part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

Miscellaneous business from City Council:

1st Ward Councilman Johnson expressed appreciation to the President for his comments.

He reported that the Portsmouth Bi-Centennial Association may have a full executive board. He announced the next meeting of the group to be on December 8th for the full membership to approve the slate of officers. He reported the following nominations as: President - Judge Steven Mowery; V. President - Mark Morgan; Vice President and General Counsel – Steve Rodeheffer; Treasurer –

Wayne Thompson CPA: Secretary –Kevin Johnson. Mr. Johnson said he will be dropping the position as temporary chairman of the association as soon as possible. He noted the association to have come a long way and is anxious to “kick off” in 2011 their plans for the Bi-Centennial in 2015.

2nd Ward

The President reported having received a complaint from citizens in his ward with concerns about conditions in the area of 5th and 6th Streets. He said he would be in touch with the Health and Service Departments. He said he has assured the property owners that the problem will be addressed.

3rd Ward

Councilman Basham reported that he met, last week with residents at Hill View who expressed many concerns they have with their water bill. Mr. Basham said he has learned that in a six-month period the water bill at Hillview increased from \$16,422.00, each billing cycle, to \$38,751.00. He noted this to be a 58% increase. He further noted that Hillview had received no letter from the Mayor informing them of this huge raise in basic services. Mr. Basham said there are 400 residents living at Hillview on fixed incomes that cannot afford an arbitrary bulk rate increase. He said he has done some research and felt the Mayor to have violated the Section 926.02 of the Codified Ordinances, which, he says, spells out the procedures and methods in which rates are to be raised. Mr. Basham said he would like for the Solicitor to check into whether or not Hillview or Council has the right to seek misdemeanor charges against the Mayor for this violation of the Codified Ordinances. Mr. Basham continued, stating that do to the Mayor’s “gross mismanagement of water and sewer rates and disregard to the City Ordinances he would like to request that the Solicitor draw up legislation to allow the Mayor to make a recommendation on raising the rates and allow Council to be the approving body for the regulation of water rates. Mr. Basham cited Section 927.02, 927.08 and 929.99 as a basis for this request. He advised that he will contact the Solicitor with regard to this request.

4th Ward

Councilman Albrecht stated that he received a report yesterday with regard to an illegal dump in his ward and advised that he will forward this to the Health Department.

5th Ward

Councilman Haas thanked those citizens who called him regarding the relocation of the Police Department. Mr. Haas noted it to be unfortunate that he had to tell most of these citizens that he did not know anymore about it than they did since he only knew what he had read in the paper and at no point has Council been provided a copy of the report from Mr. Moron of Asabrook Engineering. Mr. Haas said he was taken aback with this issue being taken directly to the press without any discussion or input from Council. He stated that all the calls he received were 100% against the purchase of another building. he said he did not know what other member’s phone calls have been like but it was interesting to him that it was due to the plea in the newspaper for citizens to call their Council representative that he received these calls that were 100% against the move.

6th Ward

Councilman Noel said he has forwarded his complaints to the Mayor. He reported that the resurfacing of Walnut Street has resulted in motorist speeding in that area.

The Auditor had nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m., on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

City Clerk

President of Council