

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday December 10, 2018

6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday December 10, 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
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 26, 2018 on a motion by Councilwoman Aeh. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0.**

There was no Public Hearing.

Councilwoman Aeh at the request of the City Manager and Auditor motioned to add to the agenda an Ordinance to make appropriations necessary for current expenses in the first two months of 2019 as item (f). The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6–nays 0.**

**Item added to
Agenda**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned to add to the agenda as item 7(g) an Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$447,000 from Ohio Development Services Agency for abandoned gas stations. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6–nays 0.**

**Item added to
Agenda**

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.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **third 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 the Ordinance be passed.

**Ord. #56 – 2018
Close the books
for 2018**

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 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 second reading.

Councilman Lowe asked how much money was involved and Manager Sutherland replied the total was approximately \$171,000. Mr. Lowe asked if it needed to be passed as an emergency and Mr. Sutherland explained that some of the money had come in but not all of it, so there was no rush.

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

The clerk gave a **second 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.

**Ord. #57 – 2018
New
Ambulance for
the Fire
Department**

Councilwoman Aeh motioned to suspend the three reading as Chief Raison had requested at the last meeting.

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

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this Ordinance be passed.

Acting Mayor Johnson stated that he had a resident comment to him that she had had a lot of residents tell her when someone was sick and they needed rapid response, they called Portsmouth Fire Department and he thanked them for their service.

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 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 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 **second 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 second reading.

Councilwoman Aeh asked Manager Sutherland if he had checked with the courts regarding the items that were promised in their initial letter of request. He stated that he had not checked with them but he will inquire about it.

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 to make appropriations necessary for the current expenses of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio for the months of January and February 2019 as provided for in Section 50 of the Charter of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.

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 the acceptance of \$447,000 from the Ohio Development Services Agency for the Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Program and authorizing appropriation of same into Capital Improvement Fund #301 for same.

Councilwoman Aeh motioned that this constitute a first reading.

Councilman Lowe asked Manager Sutherland if it included the location that Director Shearer was checking on for him. Mr. Sutherland said it was not included, but the location he was speaking of was being worked on. Mr. Lowe believed that there might be tanks in the ground on several locations. Mr. Sutherland said that Ms. Shearer was working with the property owner. Councilman Albrecht asked about the abandoned gas station by Mound Park on Hutchins Street. Mr. Sutherland said that it had not been checked on but he would add it to the list. He said they have enlisted the Tetra Tech firm to check with the property owners and if there were more he would hand them over to Tetra Tech.

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. She received via email on December 3, 2018 from the Auditor's office, the following summary statements of the Combined MTD/YTD reports for the period ending November 30, 2018: Expense, Revenue and Fund.
2. She received on December 3, 2018 the franchise fee from Charter Communications in the amount of \$37,064.85 for the third quarter of 2018 and deposited in the Auditor's office.
3. She received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control a new liquor request for Family Dollar Stores of Ohio, Inc. located at 1430 11th Street Portsmouth, Ohio. There were no objections.
4. She received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control an address change request for John Ditraglia from 2141 Gallia Street to 2134 Gallia Street in Portsmouth, Ohio. There were no objections
5. She reminded everyone that the next meeting will be next Monday December 17, 2018.

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.
2. He gave an update on the waterline project and stated that the project had started back up. The contractor was working over the weekend and they were able to get the second phase of the slip line pulled from Kinneys Lane to 24th Street and by the end of this week they were hoping to have that section of the main in service. He advised all that would be left would be the north end of Sunrise which was from 24th Street up to the pumping station and the footers for the pumping station have been poured.
3. The water tank mixing project was complete.
4. He advised that a few employees from the city (Sam Sutherland, Diana Ratliff, Tracy Shearer, Crystal Weghorst and Teresa Harmon) worked down at the Winterfest celebration. He added that city employees would be down there on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 8:00. He said there had been a nice outpouring of folks and the event was well worth going down and looking at.

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. He chaired the Board of Health on November 28th and advised that with the holidays the Board of Health would be meeting on December 19th.
2. On December 5th he was invited to attend the Great Work Ministry Scioto County Youth Commission program. He had the information about the Youth Mentoring Program if anyone on Council would like to see the brochure.
3. On Saturday December 8th he attended the Sciotoville Christmas Parade along with Clerk Ratliff, Councilman Lowe, Councilwoman Aeh and Auditor Williams. He said it was cold but it was just the way it was supposed to be for a parade this time of year and he was looking forward to next year.
4. He spoke personally about how nice Winterfest was and he thought it was great that our city was volunteering. He added that a lot of the businesses have been staying opened later at night, people are smiling and having fun. He strongly encouraged all to attend Winterfest and put on their ice skates and get out there on the Glice. (Glice is synthetic ice rinks made of plastic)

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 reported the following:

1. He thanked Diana Ratliff for helping him with the "Plaintiff's Fact Sheet". He said it had been a huge project and he appreciated her help to finish it up.
2. He advised that earlier this summer the city donated a Fire Truck to Honduras and it finally arrived in Honduras. He thanked all the people involved that had worked together to make it possible.
3. Acting Mayor Johnson stated that he had dropped off the City Manager contract for him to review. Solicitor Haas advised that he had sent an email response.

The Solicitor'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.**

Auditor Williams Report – Mr. Williams reported the following:

1. He advised that he would also be working at Winterfest on Wednesdays. He wasn't able to this past week because he was working the Buckeye Elite Basketball Tournament.
2. He stated that he helped organize the Sciotoville Christmas Parade and thanked Lori Lowe and her team for putting it together as it was the first year back in several years. He thanked all that participated in the parade and that there were over 25 units.

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 donated his Council salary to "Our House" in New Jersey. The facility provides assistance to the developmentally disabled. He stated that he knew one of the resident's there and his brother had donated to our area in the last four years.
2. He forgot to mention at the last meeting that he donated his October Council salary to the Steven Hunter Hope Fund. He commented on the impact the fund had as they give out power packs to kids.
3. He spoke about the internship that Andy Gedeon had just finished with the Department of Health.
4. He met with Gary Tindall last week and he had been able to start the initial maps on the Tableau Software which would be very helpful for our city. He hoped to get those in by the end of the month.
5. He said Winterfest was great, however there was one issue with a street closure that had been resolved. He added that for the most part, it had been great to see and reminded everyone of the World Record attempt on December 15th. He also advised that there will be another big announcement about next year's event.
6. He was still trying to get a reporter here from the New York Times.
7. He thanked Manager Sutherland for getting the lights repaired on Richardson and 24th Street.
8. He had been in touch with individuals from North Carolina and San Francisco who were very interested in doing some type of festival/concert at Spartan Municipal Stadium.
9. He advised that after the work was completed at Spartan Municipal Stadium, they updated the order for McKinley Pool and he'll be working with Director Shearer on putting it together in January.
10. He stated that the Sociology Club at SSU had made a large donation to the Portsmouth Skate Park project and also on December 8th Frankenstein's Bar held a fund raiser and they were able to raise a good deal of money from those at the gig as well as T-Shirt sales. He said the next phase would be to apply to the Tony Hawk Foundation.
11. He was a guest on Community Corner on Friday November 30th and it was very good talking to Gina Collingsworth as she was very interested in all of the positive things happening here in Portsmouth the past few months.
12. He said students at SSU would now be particularly those that do online courses for senior seminar for their capstone course. He said one of the things they'll be doing would be a discussion of our area and it was interesting this semester as the papers were talking about the positive developments being seen in our city.

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Aeh reported the following:

1. She commented on how beautiful Winterfest was and everyone should go see it.
2. She participated in the parade and she thanked Tom for the electric blanket.

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

1. He reminded everyone about the Christmas parade in Portsmouth on Saturday the 15th with lineup beginning at 4:00 and the parade steps off at 5:00.
2. Councilman Lowe asked if the World Record event after the parade and the reply was "yes" this would be for the most Christmas Carolers.

4th Ward – Councilman Albrecht thanked SSU for finishing up the repairs on Chillicothe Street and removing the barricade.

5th Ward – Councilman Meadows reported the following:

1. He asked Manager Sutherland if there were going to be any more leaf pickups in the 5th Ward. Mr. Sutherland replied "yes" they were running behind.

6th Ward – Councilman Lowe reported the following:

1. He thanked everyone that took part in the Sciotoville Christmas parade. He thanked Lori Lowe, Jackie Enz and Amy Bond for running the show.
2. He thanked the Portsmouth Fire and Police Departments for their participation in the parade.

3. He thanked Councilmembers Jo Ann and Kevin E. Johnson for taking part in the parade and thanked Miss Diana for also being there. He thanked Bill Shope, Trent and everybody else that took part.
4. He asked for a friend about the Grandview widening project. Manager Sutherland stated that it would probably be put in the 2019 CIP budget.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Meadows.

City Clerk

Acting Mayor