

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 Monday February 23, 2015
6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday February 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Acting Mayor Jim Kalb 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:

Kevin W. Johnson	1 st Ward
Rich Saddler	2 nd Ward (Absent)
Kevin E. Johnson	3 rd Ward (Absent)
Jim Kalb	4 th Ward
Gene Meadows	5 th Ward
Jeff Kleha	6 th Ward

Also present was City Manager Derek Allen, City Solicitor John Haas, City Auditor M. Trent Williams and City Clerk Diana Ratliff.

Councilman Kevin E. Johnson and Councilman Saddler’s absences were excused on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson, the motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 4 – nays 0**

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the regular session of February 9, 2015 on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson.

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.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$46,600 from the unappropriated monies of Flood Defense Fund No. 265 to Line Item No. 265.225.5502 in order for there to be sufficient funds to complete the certification of the Flood Defense System.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson moved that this constitute a second reading.

There were no questions or comments. The role was called. **VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nays, a second reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the vacation of a portion of Waller Alley that runs east/west between Fifth Street and Sixth Street directly adjacent to the current St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church, and more fully described in the attached legal description, with the City of Portsmouth reserving all easements to this property.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson moved that this constitute a second reading.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson asked the City Manager to read his response to their previous questions regarding the impact on trash or other city services for this particular alley. City Manager Allen stated that he had spoken with the Service Department and they had reported that if St. Mary’s Church were to build an awning across the alley then they would ask the people on 5th and 6th Street to put their trash cans in the front. The Fire Department had reported that they do not use alleyways.

There were no questions or comments. The role was called. **VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nays, a second reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a check from Sprint Nextel in the amount of \$6,450 that the Police Department will receive as reimbursement per the FCC 800 MHz Re-banding Ruling and the appropriation of the same into Police Department Maintenance of Communications Equipment Line Item No. 101.221.5267. **Consent Agenda**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson moved to waive the three readings as it is a consent agenda item.

**Ord. #06-15
 Police
 reimbursement
 from Sprint for
 re-banding**

Acting Mayor Kalb asked the Solicitor for an opinion regarding questions or comments on a motion to suspend the rule in general. Solicitor Haas stated that he will get the answer for him.

The role was called. **VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nay, the rule was suspended.**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned that this Ordinance be passed.

There were no questions or comments. The role was called. **VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the establishment of a new fund account, Fund No. 227 for the Police Department Continuing Professional Training (CPT) and the acceptance of funds from future reimbursements for state mandated continuing professional training. Consent Agenda

**Ord. #07-15
 New Fund
 Account 227
 for Police
 training**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson moved to waive the three readings as it is a consent agenda item.

The role was called. **VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nay, the rule was suspended.**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned that this Ordinance be passed.

There were no questions or comments. The role was called. **VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing a fund transfer of \$4,000 from General Fund No. 101 to Federal Forfeitures Fund No. 226. Consent Agenda

**Ord. #08-15
 General
 Fund 101
 Transfer to
 Federal
 Forfeitures
 Fund 226**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson moved to waive the three readings as it is a consent agenda item.

The role was called. **VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nay, the rule was suspended.**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned that this Ordinance be passed.

Councilman Meadows asked Auditor Williams if the \$4,000 was still available and Auditor Williams confirmed that the funds were available.

There were no questions or comments. The role was called. **VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nays, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution to express full support to National Church Residences' efforts to obtain the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits offered by the Ohio Development Services Agency to rehabilitate Riverview Retirement Center.

**Res. #06-15
 Support of
 National
 Church
 Residences**

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to adopt the Resolution.

Acting Mayor Kalb stated that Council had received notice that the representative could not be in attendance but does plan to be in attendance should there be a public hearing.

There were no questions or comments. The role was called. **VOTE: 4 ayes – 0 nays, the Resolution was adopted.**

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 from the Auditor via e-mail, the following Combined MTD/YTD reports for the period ending January 31, 2015: Expense, Revenue, Fund and Bank Report.
2. She prepared the Proclamation for Portsmouth Founder's Day and advised that there will be an event held at the Municipal Building for Founder's Day immediately following the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 14, 2015.
3. She attended the Main Street Portsmouth Board meeting.

Acting Mayor Kalb asked if the route had been determined and Clerk Ratliff replied that it is the same route as in past years.

The City Clerk's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson.

City Manager’s Report – Manager Allen reported the following:

1. His written report can be found on the City’s website.
2. He stated that the Fire Department tested the pull stations within the Municipal Building and most of them didn’t work, but have now been repaired. They also did a fire inspection of all of the buildings and the deficiencies are currently being worked on.
3. Liability Insurance had been obtained and it was discussed on how to reduce the premium. There had been several accidents and claims recently and that must be rectified in order to be able to lower the premiums.
4. The software through CMI for requisitions was put into place and is being utilized.
5. There had been a lot of water main breaks, with the temperatures changes the lines are more susceptible to breaks.
6. He also submitted a report on the reasons for poor snow plowing capabilities which had not been for a lack of effort, but was basically equipment failure. He stated that at the next Council Meeting he will be requesting to purchase 5 snow plows and 4 salt spreaders for pick-up trucks in the Water and Wastewater departments. This had not been for a lack of trying or lack of effort on the employee’s part because they have worked very hard and diligently and he commended them for their efforts.
7. He advised Council that he is still working on the Utility Billing questions and hoped to have an answer very soon.

The City Manager’s report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson.

Acting Mayor’s Report – Acting Mayor Kalb reported the following:

1. He reappointed the following: Kirk Donges and Matthew Schackart to the Design and Review Board.
2. He thanked the City Manager for the snow removal at the Post Office.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson asked that the Design and Review Board be more forth coming with their Agenda’s and Minutes and mostly what they do is in the First Ward and he would like to be notified. Mayor Kalb stated that it had been an ongoing problem because they don’t have a secretary but as part of the rules and guidelines for that committee it is their responsibility to have a secretary within one of their members. City Clerk Ratliff stated that she had spoken with Mr. Donges and they have not had a meeting for quite some time as there have been no issues and they only meet if they have something on their agenda.

The Acting Mayor’s report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson.

City Solicitor – Solicitor Haas had no report.

Auditor Williams – Auditor Williams reported the following:

1. He reiterated that the Clerk had received the Auditor’s reports for January.
2. He stated that the Income Tax Revenues for January were up \$51,243 over last year, the General Fund was at \$398,293, Streets was at \$11,567, Water was at \$643, 950, the only negative fund was the Sewer at -\$436,457, Sanitation was at \$150,541 and the Insurance Fund was \$350,686.
3. The new requisition routing is going well and they’ve been operating on the new system for about 2 weeks now and using the system will be a much more sufficient way of doing business. They are still working out the bugs in the program. One issue was the checking account routing number did not appear on the bottom of the checks.

The City Auditor’s report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward – Councilman Kevin W. Johnson reported the following:

1. He reminded everyone of the organizational meeting at the Welcome Center of the Mound Park Preservation Society on Wednesday February 25th at 6:00.
2. He advised that his water is frozen in his home and he’s not sure if it’s in the house or on the city side. Manager Allen stated that he could send someone out to ascertain if it is on the city’s side.

2nd Ward – Councilman Saddler had no report due to absence.

3rd Ward – Councilman Kevin E. Johnson had no report due to absence.

4th Ward – Councilman Kalb reported the following:

1. He received quite a few complaints about the trash pick-up and snow removal. He stated that he didn’t make excuses but explained the situation and the complainants seemed pretty good with his response.

2. He said that regarding snow removal whether you're a big city with 4,000-5,000 trucks or a small city with 4 or 5 trucks, there's always going to be an area that seems to get neglected. He believed that the city handled the snow as good as they could have done. He was hopeful that we'd have some warm weather and Mother Nature would help take care of the rest of the removal.

5th Ward – Councilman Meadows reported the following:

1. He advised the City Manager that the email Council received giving updates on city issues (snow removal, equipment, etc.) was very helpful. It allowed him to answer questions immediately from constituents that inquired about snow removal.
2. He thanked the City Manager also for responding to the Water questions.

6th Ward – Councilman Kleha reported the following:

1. He too thanked the City Manager for sending out the updates.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson.

City Clerk

Acting Mayor