

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday February 24, 2014
6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday February 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Mayor Steve Sturgill 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 (Vice Mayor)	1 st Ward
Rich Saddler	2 nd Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 rd Ward
Jim Kalb	4 th Ward
Gene Meadows	5 th Ward
Steve Sturgill (Mayor)	6 th Ward

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

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the regular session of February 10, 2014 on a motion by Vice Mayor Johnson.

There was no Public Hearing.

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was no one present who wished to address Council on items on the agenda.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$157,150 from Flood Defense Fund No. 265 for the construction of two levee relief wells so the City's flood defense system can be certified according to standards set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Vice Mayor Johnson motioned that this Ordinance be passed.

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

**Ord. #6-14
Construction
of 2 levee
relief wells**

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Billing Services Contract between the Village of New Boston and the City of Portsmouth a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Vice Mayor Johnson motioned that this Ordinance be passed.

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

**Ord. #7-14
Billing
Service
Contract
with New
Boston**

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance to organize six committees appointed by City Council to advise Council and the City Manager on matters pertaining to issues within the City of Portsmouth, Ohio said committees to be structured as Budget and Finance; Public Works, Codes and Standards; Legal, Legislative and Safety; Economic Development and Sustainability; Parks, Service, Buildings, Recreational & Cultural Affairs; and Personnel and Performance.

Vice Mayor Johnson motioned that this Ordinance be passed.

Councilman Kalb stated that he is not opposed to the committees just the way that they are being structured and reiterated some of the points he made at the last Council meeting.

Councilman Kevin E. Johnson stated that over the past several weeks he has had reservations concerning the committees and doesn't want to distract the City Manager from his duties.

City Manager Allen stated that he doesn't want to discourage the committees but he doesn't want these committees giving direction to the Department Heads which would conflict with the direction that he is giving them. He tries to keep Council informed on what is happening in the city through his reports.

Vice Mayor Johnson stated that the committees should be working with the Solicitor on legislation. He added that these committees have expanded Council and citizen's knowledge of how the city operates.

Councilman Meadows stated that being a new Councilman he believed that the committees have been beneficial with learning how the city operates and it has been very helpful to him, however he questioned whether it needed to be structured as an Ordinance.

Councilman Saddler stated that he feels these committees are very good for the City and they are full of dedicated people and he added that at their last meeting some items had to be tabled to keep from moving forward too quickly. He concluded by saying that Council can still have these committees with or without the Ordinance.

There were no questions or comments. The role was called. **VOTE: 3 ayes (KW. Johnson, S. Sturgill, G. Meadows) – 3 nays (J. Kalb, KE. Johnson, R. Saddler), the Ordinance was defeated.**

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio to approve Adopt-A-Park applications of groups requesting to adopt one of the City's twelve parks and accept responsibility for providing services as identified in the application.

Vice Mayor Johnson motioned that this constitute a second reading.

Councilman Saddler thanked all of Council and the committee members as he believes that this will be beneficial to improving our parks.

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

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Lee Scott – 936 9th Street – He advised Council that he will be temporarily closing the Columbia Theatre until the roof is completed. He has settled with Mr. Ockerman and the others and will be installing a permanent roof, double sound proof doors and sound proof walls. He asked for the City's support in using the City Revolving Loan fund. He has the plans and will leave a copy with the City Manager and the City Clerk.

Jason Kester – Southern Ohio Port Authority – He thanked the Mayor and Vice Mayor for helping with some issues. He stated that he's gotten very good cooperation and is pleased with the amount of support and believes they are all pulling in the same direction.

Sharon Bender – 1656 Highland Avenue – She stated that at the last meeting the old Babcock Building was discussed and she believes that if someone wants to buy that building the City should let them. She reminded Council that the City has owned the Marting's Building for 10 years, and it's not been sold or even marketed and nothing has been done, so if someone wants to buy that building it should be sold.

Barb Bradbury – Property Owner on Vinton Avenue, she resides in Union Township – She thanked Council for considering the Connex project and hopes to work with Council to develop routes for the Bike Trail.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

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

1. She received a request from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the transfer of license from "Restaurant Open, LLC dba Oscars" at 711 2nd Street & Pool Area – Portsmouth, OH to "River House Portsmouth, LLC same address.
2. She received from the Auditor via e-mail on February 13, 2014, the following Combined MTD/YTD reports for the period ending January 31, 2014: Expense Report, Revenue Report, and Fund Report.
3. She received the applications for the Hotel/Motel Tax and distributed them to the Chairperson of the Cultural Affairs Committee. The amount that will be distributed this year is \$19,085.46.

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

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

1. **Administration**
 - a. He continues to work hard on the 2014 budget and hopes to have something soon.
 - b. He hopes to get an appraisal on the Babcock Building on Friday.
 - c. The exterior doors of the City Building are broken and in violation of the Fire code and need to be replaced at a cost of \$19,100 and with Council's permission he will use the

carryover money from the CIP fund. He will discuss this more in detail during his conference agenda.

2. **Engineering**
 - a. He received a request from ODOT to participate in the resurfacing of US 52 East which would take place in 2016 and our portion would be \$300,000.
 - b. The City Planning Commission has met and recommended the rezoning of a property in Sciotoville for the construction of a commercial retail store.
 - c. \$1,500 was spent on an evaluation of the property at 536 2nd Street and it was deemed repairable.
3. **Water** – There were several water main breaks and repairs have been made.
4. **Public Service**
 - a. The City received salt from Morton Salt Company and the amount should be sufficient to last the rest of the winter season.
 - b. He will be reviewing the snow removal operations
 - c. He addressed the issue of the alley at 3rd & Gay Street and stated that posting a stop sign would not be consistent with the Uniform Manual of Traffic Control Devices for the State of Ohio.
 - d. The Sanitation crew have gotten the trash collection caught up and back on schedule, however the City will be sending out official notices with a map to the customers to remind everyone of their trash collection day. This will also be placed on the website.
 - e. He is looking to implement changes in the Sanitation department to improve the level of service.

The City Manager's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Vice Mayor Johnson.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Sturgill reported the following:

1. He thanked Main Street Portsmouth for the "Outstanding Partner" award that the City received at the Awards Dinner on Saturday night. He stated that it was a very nice event and was very informative.
2. He stated that he and City Clerk Ratliff will be attending the Chamber Breakfast on Thursday the 27th and looks forward to hearing the positive speech from City Manager Allen and Southern Ohio Port Authority Director Jason Kester

The Mayor's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Vice Mayor Johnson.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward - Vice Mayor Johnson reported the following:

1. He welcomed former Mayor David Malone to the meeting.
2. He hasn't given up on the legislation he sent to Council last week regarding the ban of the sale of tobacco products within the City.
3. He thanked Police Chief Ware for an issue they were having on 24th and Waller.
4. He commended City worker Jason Bradley for saving a lady that had fallen in the snow and could not get up. There was a very nice article in the Scioto Voice.

2nd Ward – Councilman Saddler thanked the City Manager for some of the issues he took care of in the 2nd Ward and thanked the Department Heads and City Workers for all their hard work.

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

4th Ward – Councilman Kalb thanked Council for taking a step back to look at the committee structure.

5th Ward – Councilman Meadows had no report.

6th Ward – Councilman Sturgill stated that he'd had quite a few phone calls and e-mails that have been forwarded to the City Manager and those complaints are being taken care of.

City Solicitor – Solicitor Haas reported that there have been some issues thrown onto the City Manager and there's been an increase in activity in his office. Right now he does not see a light at the end of the tunnel but appreciates the opportunity to work with the Manager.

City Auditor – Auditor Williams had no report.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Vice Mayor Johnson.