

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 23RD, 2016 MONTHLY POLICE
COMMISSION MEETING

5:30 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

Brenna Cavanaugh, Chair
Joseph J. Onosko
Joe Plaia

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The August 23rd, 2016 monthly police commission meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m. in Council Chambers.

The following people were present: Commissioners Cavanaugh and Plaia, Commissioner Onosko was present via telephone, and Chief Mara.

The Chair called for a motion to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91:A, 3-II (a), “Dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee...”, and (b), “Consideration of the hiring of any person as a public employee.”

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved to enter non-public session for the purposes delineated above.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Cavanaugh: “Aye.”

Commissioner Onosko: “Aye.”

Commissioner Plaia: “Aye.”

The commission entered non-public session at 4:12 p.m.

The public session resumed at 5:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers in city hall.

- II. **The following people were present:** Commissioners Cavanaugh and Plaia, Commissioner Onosko was present via telephone, Chief Mara, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque,

members of the public and the press. (Archived video of the meeting is available on the city's website.)

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

The Chair asked if the commissioners had the opportunity to read the minutes of the June 9th, June 30th, and July 26th meetings. Both Commissioner Plaia and Commissioner Onosko said they had not had the opportunity. Commissioner Plaia asked if acceptance of the minutes could be postponed until the next regular commission meeting. The chair asked for a motion to postpone the acceptance of the minutes of the June 9th, June 30th, and July 26th meeting minutes until the next regular commission meeting.

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved to postpone acceptance of the minutes of the June 9th, June 30th and July 26th meetings until the next regular commission meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On Voice Vote: The motion passed to postpone acceptance of the minutes of the June 9th, June 30th, and July 26th meetings until the next regular commission meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT: : (The following is a brief summary of each person's comments and represents the speaker's personal opinion. The entire meeting can be viewed online by going to the city's website and clicking "Channel 22", and then clicking on "Archived 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 meetings.")

Mr. Rick Becksted – 1395 Islington Street – Rick Becksted asked the police commission for help and guidance to get the city to acquire solar-powered speeding monitors which are referred to as traffic calming devices. Mr. Becksted said this type of device is less expensive than the equipment currently used by the police department and thinks the city should obtain 10 of these and put them up on the major thoroughfares. He said it would cost \$35,000 to buy 10 of them, but does not think the cost should be borne by the police budget.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A.) POLICE COMMISSION:

1.) Commissioner Cavanaugh:

- a.) The commissioner gave an overview of the IACP site visit scheduled for September 14th and 15th of this year. The IACP has been retained to conduct a nationwide search for a new permanent Chief of Police for Portsmouth. They will be doing interviews over the period of two days to understand the department and the community served by it. Karen Senecal has been working with the commission to assemble the program for the visit, and the Chair asked Karen to explain in more detail how the visit will go.

Karen said it would be a very structured two days. After explaining what has to be accomplished, she said we will have 14 hours to accomplish all the interviews with all the types of stakeholders requested by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Karen said the IACP has given the commission specific guidelines and group size guidelines.

The Chair asked when the Chief's admin. staff would start calling and scheduling all of these individuals and groups. Karen felt the process could begin on Thursday and Friday of this week, continuing into next week.

- b.) Scheduled September 13th meeting: The Chair asked the other commissioners if they felt the commission would need the scheduled meeting on September 13th for a work session. Commissioner Plaia did not see the need to meet on the 13th, and recommended the commission stick to the regular monthly meeting schedule through the end of the year, until a new schedule is put together for 2017. Commissioner Onosko also did not see the need to meet on September 13th, and suggested the commission make an assessment at the Sept. regular monthly meeting, scheduled for September 27th, regarding whether the extra October meeting would be necessary.
- c.) Pending Legal Matters – Postponed to a future meeting.

VII. CHIEF'S REPORT:

- 1.) Chief Mara reported the department has successfully negotiated two Tentative Agreements with the Ranking and Patrol Officers' unions, and is making progress with the remaining union, the civilian employees' union. These unions

have been working without a contract since 2014. In January of this year we started negotiations again in earnest, and have kept on meeting since then. The Chief is pleased the TAs are now before the city council.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: None

The Chair announced the date of the September regular monthly meeting, which is Tuesday, September 27th, with the regular 4:30/5:30 p.m. start time. An explanation of the start time appears at the beginning of this agenda.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the commission, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved the August 23rd, 2016 police commission meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to adjourn the August 23rd, 2016 police commission meeting at 5:46 p.m.

END OF MEETING

Kathe

*Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant
Commissioner Plaia, Clerk of the Commission*

Joe Plaia