

**MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION****PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday March 8, 2021

6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday March 8, 2021 at 6:03 p.m., at Shawnee State University Center. Council held the meeting at Shawnee State University in order to comply with the Governor's order to social distance at least 6 feet apart.

Mayor 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 <sup>st</sup> Ward
Charlotte Gordon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward
Lyvette Mosley	4 <sup>th</sup> Ward
Edwin Martell	5 <sup>th</sup> Ward
Dennis Packard	6 <sup>th</sup> Ward

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

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Special Session of February 20, 2021 and Regular Session of February 22, 2021 on a motion by Vice President Dunne. **The motion carried viva voce: VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

**STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

**Due to the Governor's mandate of only 10 persons in a meeting, the meeting was not open to the public – Statements and Remarks were emailed ahead of time and read by Clerk Ratliff**

**Mark Craycraft – Scioto County Daily News - Journalists.org #43118 - 1111 North Capitol Street NE, Second Floor, - Washington, DC 20002**

“First, this proposed ordinance is an answer to a problem that no business owner has complained to any member of the council. Last week the clerk asked every single member of the council if they had received a complaint from any local business. There was one response. That response was a question by a local business owner asking for clarification after the ordinance had already been proposed.

The commission charged by a third-party service is passed on to the customer. Those commissions have not taken a single penny from a single business. Rather, they have increased the potentiality for a local business to remain open by serving the demand for delivery. Using a third-party delivery service relieves the business from additional liabilities like insurance and payroll. In fact, there are several restaurants that have never offered delivery before that have been helped by contracting what's a third-party delivery service.”

People have the right to pay for convenience. Please look at this graph we have compiled, Clearly, the cost of a third-party delivery service is passed directly to the customer and not the business. He gave an example of using “Bob Evans’ using the third-party delivery service “DoorDash” the Double Meat Farmer is \$14.29 and in the restaurant is cost \$11.49 and he used several other menu examples of price differences.

“Businesses are free to launch into a contractual agreement with vendors without governmental interference. Who would you charge for the first-class misdemeanor? An executive living in California?

Under the COVID-19 dog whistle, you are proposing legislation with legal penalties when there are, in fact, no victims. Some of these small businesses would have actually closed had it not been for the 3rd party delivery service. It has been their Lifeline to the community. The delivery sector is expanding with the growing demand. Delivery is becoming a crucial part of every business plan. You are creating a problem when there is none. Threatening prosecution to people you can't prosecute. All for some potential bragging rights to voters who may be uninformed.

You have more important items on your agenda and more to come. Table this, or better yet toss it in the trash. This legislation is not designed to help people who are paying a premium price for the service. It is written to protect businesses who weren't complaining and aren't being financially wounded.”

**Linda Donaldson – 709 4<sup>th</sup> Street Portsmouth, OH**

“I come urging support for the ordinance authorizing a lease with the Scioto County Heritage Museum, for the property at 733 5th Street. I am the secretary for this group. I live and operate my own business a block from the fledgling museum.

This museum is something residents have commiserated upon for years, that would be neat to have. It has grown from a display put on at the “old” Portsmouth High School gym in May 2019, by several local history collectors. While many of the high school students were on field trips and unable to attend, many elementary students attended, asking quite inquisitive questions about our history. Questions many of us who are 60+ don’t need to ask!! Several of our collectors do not have places for our collections to move to upon our demise, and would hate to see them leave town, or be broken up to be sold on eBay.

Covid has made fundraising quite an obstacle, as it has for all non-profits, but we have managed to procure sufficient funds to already do limited major upgrades to the property in the last few months. A small group of volunteers has invested their skills and labors. These are improvements to a City property which has generated limited interest in several years, but provide for the possibility of a stable future use. It could provide another site of interest to visitors to our area; those who come to view our Portsmouth Murals, our emergent historic district, genealogists who visit our Public Library – tourists from all over the world. This in turn leads to improved economic development for our entire area. I say area, for this includes not only the City of Portsmouth, but the entire Scioto County, and even our friends in Kentucky.

Please give us a lease that we might feel more secure in moving forward with our contribution to the future of our community.”

### **LEGISLATION**

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance enacting a new chapter entitled “Third-party Food Delivery Services” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth that will limit the amount of commission charged to restaurants by food delivery companies at 15% (fifteen percent). Pursuant to Council Rule 5, this legislation is requested to be passed as an emergency in accordance with Section 10 of the Charter for the City of Portsmouth in order to facilitate administration, daily operation and avoid practical and legal entanglements.

Vice President Dunne moved that the three-reading rule be waived.

**The role was called. VOTE: 3 ayes–3 nays, (K.E. Johnson, L. Mosley, D. Packard) the rule was not suspended.**

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitutes a second reading.

Councilman Packard commented on the response from the public and the claim that no area business had been cost a single penny as a result, warrants further review and would give the area businesses another reading to reach out to Councilmembers on whether or not this had affected their business. Vice President Dunne said that when Diana sent out the email asking if any Council member had complaints, he had interpreted it as complaints about the legislation and not about the third-party charges. He had heard complaints about DoorDash and heard of people/businesses not just locally but elsewhere that won’t go into business with DoorDash because of their experiences with them regarding the cost and the general experience (He corrected himself and said Third-Party Services). He said when he responded he thought it was someone seeking clarification about the legislation. He said there wasn’t much more to say about the source of input from the public, but that he would give far more credibility to people that were running businesses/restaurants than any of the criticism that he heard about the legislation. Generally speaking, it was unfortunate that it was decided not to waive the three-reading rule at the last meeting mainly to think further about the cap that was being put on the delivery services and, time was money for these restaurants. He said that certain restaurants could pass the costs onto the customer but not all restaurants have done that and there was a misinterpretation of what was going on. Some restaurants have chosen to pass the cost onto the customer and he said the example that was given was from a restaurant that had passed that cost onto the customer. He said that one of these major corporations have acknowledged that the rate could be decreased and, in some ways, should be decreased, specifically the letter that was received from one of the company’s stated that the amount should be dropped to 20%. Mayor Johnson wanted to make sure that he understood the legislation and what we’re trying to do and that these delivery services were charging too much commission and this would limit their commission to 15%. Mr. Dunne stated that was correct and in many ways our city was very late to the game, in that, there were cities across the country that have passed identical legislation to help restaurants. Mr. Johnson said that he was confused because if he doesn’t want XYZ company to get 20% or 25% commission on his delivery, why use them? Mr. Dunne stated that some places have chosen to do that but on the other hand there were some restaurants that were acknowledging that they wanted to keep customers connected to their restaurants and for a variety of reasons, some people don’t want to eat inside a restaurant. He understood that restaurants were being stuck in between trying to keep the volume of sales going and balance that with keeping people connected to the restaurant and, also not wanting to lose out on competition to other places that had decided to use the third-party service. He added that locally owned restaurants that weren’t part of a corporate chain and that didn’t have a corporate office to develop a strategy about how to use these services were the ones he would like to see protected. He said there was a restaurant in another city that had taken on 25% of the cost and they advocated for their city council to pass this exact legislation. He explained that part of it was the pressure of keeping people connected to the restaurant so that they know they’re still in business and don’t

want to lose the public as a customer. Mayor Johnson said that if he were in business, he would be negotiating with these third-party services to help bring that percentage down instead of city council getting involved. He continued by saying that like anything else such as tires or a mechanic, he shops around for the best price and shouldn't the restaurant owners be doing the same thing. Mr. Dunne stated that Council had already involved themselves in the private market for public safety by passing the masks mandate before the State did and that was done to protect workers and members of the public and, they've passed other legislation to assist restaurants by expanding the markets ability to operate by passing a designated outdoor refreshment area to allow customers of different places to enjoy drinks outside in designated cups, so Council had already involved themselves due to the Pandemic. Some restaurants have decided to make deliveries in house and have avoided the delivery services altogether, but others were quite desperate to try to get any type of volume of sales. He said the language in the legislation limits the cap specifically for the Pandemic and it was a special circumstance in trying to assist locally owned restaurants. There were additional comments concerning tips and services and one of the issues was that there was no phone number attached to any of the third-party services and if there was an order that messed up, there's no way to correct the order other than to call the restaurant who then takes another hit by having to replace the order and send out a staff member to deliver it, in turn costing that restaurant more money. There was also no standard for the third-party service such as if a restaurant employee was sick, the restaurant would not let them work because they were held to certain Health Department standards, however, third-party delivery services have no standards and people may be getting their orders from someone that was sick. It was decided to ask local customers and businesses to reach out to Councilmembers and voice their opinions.

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 to submit to the electors of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio at the next General Election to be held on the 2nd day of November 2021, the question of whether or not to adopt a Wholesale Electricity Purchase/Renewable Energy Program.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitutes 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 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with the Scioto County Heritage Museum, LLC to be located at 733 5th Street.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitutes a first reading.

Vice President Dunne asked if there were an interested party that wanted to buy the building, could this legislation be tabled? Mayor Johnson stated that he felt that it needed to be reviewed with the Solicitor and City Manager because according to the Memorandum of Understanding if the Martings Building should sell that the Museum would have to vacate and of course if the building were to sell it would no longer be the decision of the City but of the new owner. He said that if a lease was created, he would like to add wording if the Martings Building were to sell, they would have to vacate or make arrangements with the new owner. He added that he had seen the improvements that the Museum had been making. Solicitor Haas stated that he would include it in the lease agreement. Mr. Johnson mentioned a 60-day notice to vacate if the building was sold, unless other terms were agreed on by the new owner and he asked if a fee had been discussed? Councilwoman Gordon stated that they were doing all of the improvements on the building. Mr. Johnson stated that he wouldn't have a problem with a \$1.00 lease because of the fact that they've done improvements to the building for the city. Councilwoman Gordan and Councilman Martell both said that there was previous discussion regarding a \$1.00 fee and Mr. Johnson said that he had not seen that in his notes. Ms. Gordon said that as long as the city wasn't incurring any additional costs and they were doing 100% of the improvements. Solicitor Haas thought that the utilities had already been switched over to the Museum and he would compile an agreement and have Council review it.

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 authorizing the grant acceptance and establishment of new fund #907 Ohio Department of Youth Services – Community Prevention Grant Fund, and authorizing appropriations as received. Pursuant to Council Rule 5, this legislation is passed as an emergency in accordance with Section 10 of the Charter of the City of Portsmouth in order to facilitate administration, daily operations and avoid practical and legal entanglements.

Vice President Dunne moved that the three-reading rule be waived.

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

Ord. #10-2021  
Dept. of Youth  
Services Grant  
Fund

Vice President Dunne that the Ordinance be passed.

Auditor Williams asked that this legislation be passed with the readings being waived as this was a good program between the Department of Youth Services and a local organization for assisting “At Risk Youth”. The program had already been approved and ready to be started and the sooner the legislation passed, the quicker the kids and the people affected would begin receiving the benefits from the program.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) an application for the Cooperative Boating Facility Grant and upon receipt of the grant enter into an agreement to carry out provisions of the grant.

Res. #03- 2021  
ODNR grant  
application for  
Boating Facility

Vice President Dunne moved that the Resolution be adopted.

Manager Sutherland stated that he and the Community Development Director had researched a little deeper into the program and they’ve become concerned about the original estimate that was in his Council Letter as it turned out that the project could be a \$2,200,000. He said the grant was 100% reimbursed, but there was a scoring system used when a grant was applied for, and if the city would agree to match a percentage (up to 30%), then a higher score could be given and a better chance of getting the money. He felt that the city should continue to pursue it and the payments could be stretched out over a couple of years because the grant wouldn’t be in place for at least 2-years. Vice President Dunne asked for clarification “are we voting for the legislation as is?” Manager Sutherland said that it was based on two different estimates, one was for \$800,000 and the other was \$2,200,000 which was why he was making Council aware of that fact and there would be \$3,000,000 distributed statewide and he wasn’t sure how other cities would apply or how they would score. Mr. Dunne asked if the city would be applying for the match or not and Manager Sutherland said that hadn’t been decided yet but hopefully by the next meeting, they would be able to determine whether to apply straight out or with the match of 30% and the grant was due April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Dunne stated that he understood that if it was statewide and a variety of other cities in Ohio were applying, the City of Portsmouth would want to accrue the highest point total in their assessment of each application and the understanding would be “yes, they can fund it 100%, however, if a municipality was willing to fund a certain percentage of it, it added to the points and improved the City’s chances of obtaining the grant.” Mr. Sutherland stated that the highest percentage for scoring purposes was 30%, any higher doesn’t not garner a higher score.

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

**STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**  
**Due to the Governor’s mandate of only 10 persons in a meeting, the meeting was not open to the public - Questions were sent in ahead of time via email and read by Clerk Ratliff**

There was no one present that wished to address Council pertaining to items not on the agenda.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:**

**City Clerk’s Report** – Clerk Ratliff reported the following:

1. She received a report from David Lucas Communications. The live-stream report for the combined Regular Session meetings in February received 20,000 views. The Special Session on February 20<sup>th</sup> received 1,500 views, 25 reactions, 22 comments and 13 shares. Regarding the comments, most of those were about the sound issues happening that day.
2. She received via email on March 1, 2021 from the Auditor’s office, the following summary statements of the Combined MTD/YTD reports for the period ending February 28, 2021: Expense, Revenue and Fund reports.
3. She gathered information and provided a Public Records request for a local media company concerning the Third-Party Food Delivery Service.
4. She received 11 applications for the Hotel Motel Tax Distributions. The Cultural Affairs Committee will be meeting Thursday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to determine each organizations award. The amount to be distributed will be \$20,643.00.

The City Clerk's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Vice President Dunne. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 6 ayes– 0 nays.**

**City Manager's Report** – Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. He participated in the cleanup hosted by Friends of Portsmouth in the area across from AutoZone on Route #52 West, they worked for about three-hours and filled up a dumpster with all the loose trash that was laying around. He said with all of that effort, the trash had already begun to pile up again.
2. He stated that with the departure of Mr. Duncan who had accepted a different position, he had hired Randy Nichols as the Public Utilities Director in the Sewer Department who started today and the city was glad to have him.

The City Manager's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Vice President Dunne. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 6 ayes– 0 nays.**

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Johnson reported the following:

1. He thanked Council and apologized for missing the last meeting, he had a cold and with the COVID Pandemic nowadays they take a common cold a little more seriously. He thanked Vice President Dunne for filling the role.
2. He will be signing two letters of recommendation from KDMC Physician Recruiter Mr. Reeves and had emailed all of Council about two weeks ago regarding the letter of request. He reviewed the vetting process performed by KDMC and both doctors' credentials and had spoken with leaders in the community with one of the leaders being a former hospital recruiter for 28 years and they were very comfortable with KDMC's recommendation of these doctors. He had spoken with the Solicitor who had said typically this was usually a City Manager's duty, but the folks that requested the support asked specifically for the Mayor's signature. This would be helping to secure J2 Visa's for two doctors to come from overseas (Pakistan) and into our community to practice.
3. He said that reporter Randy Yohe had reached out to him about considering taking questions during the Council meeting, which was something that had never been done. Mr. Yohe suggested using Lucas communications as they were able to access questions from listeners during the meeting. He would like Council to consider this over the next couple of weeks, because he had always thought because of timing measures, that Council shouldn't be doing that; also, sometimes they don't have the answers.
4. He thanked Councilwoman Gordon for putting together the strategic planning session that was held a couple of Saturdays ago. He said that something that most departments had in common was that everybody was out of space and Mr. Yohe had asked him how Council was going to address the space issue. He felt that Council should begin discussions about this issue because our current city building was out of room and buildings around the city were out of room. Council needed more discussion and needed to be proactive.
5. He thanked Mr. Duncan from the Sewer Department for his many years of service. He said that Rick had done a super job and had secured the grant for the large project on 12<sup>th</sup> Street which saved the city \$800,000.

The Mayor's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Vice President Dunne. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 6 ayes– 0 nays.**

**Solicitor Haas Report** – Solicitor Haas reported the following:

1. He congratulated Rick Duncan on his new position.

The City Solicitor's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Vice President Dunne. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 6 ayes– 0 nays.**

**Auditor Williams Report** – Mr. Williams reported the following:

1. He said that he had emailed both the January and February reports. He said the Income Tax collections for January were \$1,142,754 which was \$76,209 over the previous January; total collections were \$1,300,000 which was \$87,000 above last January.
2. He said for February they collected \$1,051,854 which was \$116,327 down from last February which was \$40,118 down in accumulative from last February. The total collections were \$1,195,317 which was \$132,193 down and accumulative was down \$45,596. The six major fund balances at the end of February were: General \$9,819,171, Streets \$547,739 down approximately \$3,000 from the previous year, Water \$1,332,609 which was up \$973,185, Sewer \$124,102 and was \$173,695 better than last year, Sanitation \$264,452 and was down \$156,385 from last year and Insurance \$3,691,617 which was over \$1,265,907 from last year.
3. He reminded Council not to worry because as he had said many times, one month may be up and the next month may be down but it would fluctuate throughout the year and he hoped that by the end of December it would be in the positive and above the previous year.

The City Auditor's report was received, filed and made part of the record, on a motion by Vice President Dunne. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 6 ayes– 0 nays.**

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ward** – Councilman Dunne reported the following:

1. He spoke with the Ohio Environmental Council regarding different programs and policies that other municipalities in the State of Ohio had been involved with to work towards environmental sustainability and to reduce a carbon footprint. He learned more about a resolution that the city could pass to make a commitment to doing some of those things, specifically reducing the carbon footprint. If this was done, the city could get an assessment by the Ohio Environmental Council on helping the city to achieve those goals. He would be finalizing the details for the next meeting.
2. He was asked about providing bit coin as an option for payments to City Workers. He said that he would need to learn more about it, but the City of Miami had recently offered this to City Workers and he suggested to Council if it was an area they knew about or want to learn about, it would possibly be something they would want to have as a discussion item in a future meeting.
3. He attending a meeting with Centrafuse out of Cincinnati which was a non-profit organization that was aligned to different corporations that were located in Cincinnati and had provided funding and mentorship to entrepreneurs as well as tech start-ups. They would be interested in moving outside of Cincinnati and into our region. He was happy to speak to them about some of the activities that were taking place in Portsmouth and they hoped to have a follow-up meeting with them.
4. He researched an AEP grant to possibly fund the material cost for the breaker box at the riverfront and campgrounds.
5. He attended a meeting with Code Enforcement and the City Manager which would be discussed during the City Manager's Conference Meeting.
6. He asked the City Manager about the DORA signs and where they should be placed and places that were interested in ordering cups. He asked if the signs would be up by St. Patrick's Day and Manager Sutherland replied that they should be.
7. He had asked about the Adelpia property and that they need to decide what to do with the property.
8. He said that they had spoken about the Martings Building and the possibility or grant through a State program to help with the abatement of asbestos and it sounded like something that the city should at least try to get. He believed that the City could still move forward with the use of the Martings Building and was a good step forward.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ward** – Councilwoman Charlotte Gordon reported the following:

1. She said at the last meeting there was a letter from Betty Morgan about litter and she said that litter was a very big problem all over this city. She advised that she goes out every weekend and picked up around her neighborhood and she proposed some type of litter campaign because other cities had been very successful in running anti-litter campaigns. She knew that a lot of the trash especially the cigarette butts got washed down the drainage system and into the river.
2. She had two follow-up calls about properties on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and had already had a discussion with Manager Sutherland and Code Enforcement.
3. She reached out to someone in Cincinnati to do an assessment on McKinley Pool. They would be meeting on Tuesday morning looking at the pool. Mayor Johnson asked about the Tuesday meeting and when it would be, she replied that it would be on March 16th at 1:00 p.m.
4. She's been receiving questions about the fluctuation in the water bills and people have been surprised by their water bills. She would be educating herself more to be able to answer the questions as they come in because it seemed to be coming from a particular neighborhood or group of people.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ward** – Councilman Kevin E. Johnson reported the following:

1. He extended his gratitude to our City Workers for their top-notch performance and explained that he had reached out to Manager Sutherland about a tree blocking the road on Shearer's Hollow Hill, he said it was quite the obstacle that could have caused a wreck because you had to swerve around into the other lane to get around it. He messaged Manager Sutherland about the tree and on his return back over the hill probably around 15 minutes later, the city workers had already responded and cleaned it up within a matter of minutes. He called Manager Sutherland about a neighbor that had fallen when he was taking his garbage out and the can had busted and by the time he got home, his neighbor had a brand-new garbage can thanks to our city workers. Manager Sutherland said that Keith Nyland the Sanitation Supervisor had taken care of that issue. Mr. Johnson said "hats off to all of our city workers and thanked them for what they do."

**4<sup>th</sup> Ward** – Councilwoman Mosley reported the following:

1. She agreed with Councilwoman Gordon regarding the need for a litter program for our city. She wasn't able to make the Friends of Portsmouth's event but the day before had gone out on 17<sup>th</sup> Street again and collected a huge construction bag full of trash and when she returned the next day someone had deliberately dumped a bag of trash in the spot that she had cleaned up.

2. She said that Speedway had been turned in to the City Health Department because they were not enforcing the mask mandate and allowing customers to come into the store without masks. She added that recently an employee had told a customer she wasn't going to serve them and the customer got very belligerent and the Police had to be called; the Manager thought that the man was going to assault the employee for doing what her boss had told her to do. The Health Department had been in there from Columbus twice as well as the local Health Department because it wasn't being enforced.
3. She had received a lot of complaints from stores (Sav-a-lot, Family Dollar) because people were walking off with the grocery buggies. She said there were about 15 buggies lined up in New Boston in a certain spot. She said Sav-a-lot had not had grocery buggies for about four months and did not know when their corporate office would send more buggies because they were very expensive.
4. She said that the Greenlawn Cemetery fence had been vandalized in two places as reported from residents on Baird. They said that people were lifting up the fence and climbing under it and part of the wrought iron had been pulled back, she got in touch with Dawn Scott who got in touch with the groundskeeper who was in the process of taking care of the fence.
5. She thanked the Mound Park watch group; they were an excellent group who watched over their community because there were a lot of midnight ramblers out late at night. They walk up and down the street, going onto people's porches taking things that don't belong to them. She said that most of the people had cameras and had gotten pictures of these people because they want them to stop. She asked that the Police maybe patrol through that area at night which might help.
6. She thanked Manager Sutherland and Mr. Gedeon who had taken care of some calls where an ordinance was being violated with furniture and things in the yard and stuff on the porches.

**5<sup>th</sup> Ward** – Councilman Martell reported the following:

1. He thanked all of the City Workers for all of the hard work that had been unfortunately happening with the ice, potholes and other things. He added a couple of more potholes to the list: The corner of Sandstone and North Hill Road and on Old Post Road and the drain issue on Timberview.
2. He said that a constituent sent him an email which was intense and heartfelt. He advised that it was very concerning especially for a young woman who was struggling and it didn't help that her vehicle was impounded. Apparently, there were multiple emails of vehicles that were impounded because of an issue with parking at Kendall Heights. They had been told they could park on the street and when they parked on the street, their cars were towed. He asked that the Manager get in touch with PMHA to find out what the issue was and see where there was a breakdown.
3. He had a brief meeting with Manager Sutherland and Mr. Gedeon and was informed about something that would be in Council interest. There was a grant that would pay 100% for 200 acres of land that the city could actually purchase by using the grant. He said that the City could get the land and develop it into a Park of some sort such as: Mountain Biking, Zip-lining and the possibilities of recreation would be endless.
4. He had a meeting with the Friends of Portsmouth on Wednesday to discuss the Town Ambassador Program that could possibly help by using volunteers and maybe keeping a part time seasonal worker that would facilitate between the city and volunteers which could help with the litter issue.

**6<sup>th</sup> Ward** – Councilman Packard reported the following:

1. He said that he was pleased to see that the Sciotoville Preservation Society had a really nice showing and cleaned from the Sciotoville Exit and went all the way up Gallia to the Scioto River. He thanked that group.
2. He said that there had been a couple of good-sized sinkholes as a result of the flood and had contacted Mr. Sutherland and those had been taken care of.

Vice President Dunne requested to move into Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters and invited Manager Sutherland.

The role was called and the motion carried: **VOTE: 6 ayes– 0 nays**, Council recessed into Executive Session at 7:31 p.m.

Executive  
Session

Vice President Dunne motioned to reconvene from Executive Session. Council reconvened with all still in attendance at 8:23 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Gordon.

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City Clerk

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Mayor