

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday September 27, 2021
6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday September 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

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 st Ward
Charlotte Gordon	2 nd Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 rd Ward
Lyvette Mosley	4 th Ward
Edwin Martell	5 th Ward (Absent)
Dennis Packard	6 th Ward

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

Councilman Martell's absence was excused on a motion by Vice President Dunne. The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Regular Session of September 13, 2021 on a motion by Councilman Martell. **The motion carried viva voce: VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

Public Hearing – 1 mill or 1.5 mill Tax Levy for Street Resurfacing

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open at 6:02 p.m.

City Engineer Nathan Prosch 1130 23rd Street proposed a tax levy in the amount of 1 mill or 1.5 mill with the funds dedicated solely to street resurfacing. He had spoken with the Deputy Scioto County Auditor about how much a 1 mill tax levy would generate and was told approximately \$236,000 which would complement the \$400,000 that was allotted from the CIP Budget. He also added a 1.5 mill tax levy to compare the difference and it would generate \$350,000. He said the reason for the request was that this year the city was spending \$428,000 and only paving 2.16 miles of streets this year and there were 98 miles of streets in the City of Portsmouth. He has not completed the street inventory but would assume that 80 miles were asphalt roads and this year, the city will be milling the old asphalt and replacing it with new for just over 2 miles of streets which wasn't very much. He said that the graph showed that it would take 37 years to complete at the current rate. He's asking for an increase, preferably the 1.5 mill and would also like to use about \$250,000 of the gas tax money, and if he could get that along with the current \$400,000 from CIP, the city would be spending \$1,000,000 in paving which was ideal. In the graph that he presented to Council showed that if the 1 mill or 1.5 mill were to be implemented, the city could actually have those 80 miles of asphalted streets done within a 17-year period. He had hoped for some of the public's input but since there was nothing, he will move forward with the 1.5 mill tax levy. Vice President Dunne ask if Mr. Prosch had had any of the public's input and the reply was "no". Mr. Dunne asked where the asphalt would be purchased for the paving, Mr. Prosch stated that it would be bid out to the lowest bidder. Mr. Dunne asked to be clear, the County doesn't sell us asphalt and the reply was "that is correct". Mr. Prosch advised that Mr. LeBrun from the County does a good job with the grant and had invited the city to participate in the grant next year which the city will do. There wasn't a lot of options for the city because we were supposed to be generating our own revenue to take care of the paving.

**Public Hearing
for Tax Levy
for Street
Resurfacing**

Councilwoman Gordon asked about the life of the asphalt and for a busy street it would last for 8-10 years and 20 years for less traveled streets, so if it does take 16 years, would that be keeping up with the busy streets. Mr. Prosch stated that it would be close; the busy streets would probably have to be paved again before the less traveled streets. Ms. Gordon asked if the city received any money from the license plate tax and he replied that was the gas tax and they generate close to \$350,000. Mayor Johnson asked about the gas tax and the proposal was for \$250,000, what would happen to the other \$100,000, Mr. Prosch replied that it would stay in the fund. Mayor Johnson stated that it would only make sense if we partnered with the county for better buying power and Mr. Prosch said that the County Engineer LeBrun liked to spread the wealth and invites all of the townships to participate in the program with half the townships one year and the other the next year. Mr. LeBrun had administered the project for the past 4-5 years and had been scored as number one by the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission. Mr. Prosch stated that he would participate every year that the program was offered to the city. Mr. Prosch said that the city could not purchase asphalt from the county and all you could do would be to participate in the grant and because they buy so much, they get a lower price for asphalt than the city. For example, the county purchased over 30,000 tons at \$85.00 per ton this year, and the city purchased 3,000 tons and the city's cost was over \$100 per ton. He said participating in the grant would be a big help.

Vice President Dunne said that they had done some preliminary research with the Tablo software as a pothole project, where students went through the downtown and plotted out where the potholes were and tested out the software with data collection and visualization. One student followed up and tried to estimate the cost with Tablo which was helpful for certain aspects, but the primary purpose wouldn't be for projects such as this. He asked if the city was using a software package that helped track a certain level of use to help out with street repairs. Mr. Prosch said when he does his estimates every year, he utilizes previous bids provided by ODOT from the previous year. He said the Iworq's program does have pavement management software which basic information could be entered and it would give a recommended repair method and cost, but he hadn't finished the street inventory yet. Councilman Packard asked if there were any city workers involved in the paving process and if the company the asphalt was purchased from was the same company that would be paving or would that be two different companies? Mr. Prosch outlined the process: 1. The company awarded the bid would have a sub-contractor to do the milling/remove the surface asphalt. 2. The company awarded the bid would be the paving company. 3. They would then have another sub-contractor paint the stripes. He said this year there would be two streets that would be striped. He said that for the past several years the city had allocated approximately \$400,000 for paving which doesn't coordinate with the rising cost of labor and materials, and each year, the city had been paved less and less.

Andy Cole – 2840 North Hill Road – He had been afforded the opportunity of speaking to the 3rd Ward residents and beyond and wanted to relay messages from these people. He said there were two things that everyone talked about and one of them was the roads. People talk about the shocks on their cars and they're upset and want to see better streets, specifically Coles Boulevard where there was a lot of disruption in the road which are traveled by ambulances that do important things such as intubation and drawing lines. These things were important to Portsmouth because it was a visual stimulus for us and they were all working in different aspects to try to create more and better stimulus for Portsmouth, whether it was a Skate Park or the revitalization of the downtown. All of the programs that we're trying to focus on and get a better view of our city, could propel us forward as we make our changes. He said he wasn't sure where Portsmouth stood on this issue, whether they'll support a 1 mill or 1.5 mill but through his prospective everyone says they want it and Mr. Prosch is honest about the responsibilities of the way the funding should be obtained and there comes a time where it had to be presented to the residents and say "you say you want streets, you say it's important to you, is it important enough for you to be part of the solution and to pitch in and pay a little more property tax?" He said that you can't always expect a grant to be waiting there for you, because Council had worked with grants and they know they're not always easy and the general public doesn't understand that money doesn't flow freely and easily. There's going to be a point where you have to put the plan in front of people and explain how the plan works.

Mayor Johnson closed the hearing at 6:21 p.m. since there were no further comments.

Vice President Dunne motioned to add to the agenda as item 7(f) a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a cooperative agreement to submit an application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the 2022 Scioto County/City Highway Improvement project.

Item
added

The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 5 ayes –0 nays**

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Bob Gambill – 3130 Michigan Avenue – He spoke in regard to item 7(c) ordinance to amend the zoning map for the City of Portsmouth, Ohio. Clerk Ratliff had emailed him documents earlier in the week but he hadn't gotten a chance to go through them earlier to speak with Solicitor Haas but he had sent him an email earlier today. He was not opposed to the Copeland property concept on Timlin Hill being permitted a variance as specified in the minutes of the City Planning Commission, however, he was concerned that potentially the ordinance as written could grant a much broader authority in the future for the Copeland's and does not reference that the variance would terminate if they were to sell the property. He understood that was the intent by the Planning Commission but having a son as a lawyer who was paid to tear things apart, he knew that someone could tear this ordinance apart later on and perhaps do other things. They reference that they have two rooms in process and they would add three more and he knew that the house had eight bedrooms and had capacity to have several more sleeping facilities. He was concerned with the broad acknowledgment that this would now become a boarding house and changing the zoning map to boarding house would leave a lot of loopholes down the road unless it just specified per Planning Commission meeting. When his office downtown was next to the Rogers Hotel which was a boarding house, it was awful. There were people coming in and out of there and he's had to take guns off of them and the boarding house had a lot of drama over the years. He said currently on his street, there was an Airbnb which had its own problems because there's been as many as sixteen people staying in that house in one night and was an ongoing problem around town where the city had let this ability to board and house people may be getting a little beyond control. He's afraid that currently all of the neighbors are in favor of the change, however if this got set up as a halfway house for released people from SOCF, he doubted that they would be happy about it and in reading the ordinance that could potentially happen. He's asking that Council look at this again and possibly come up with a modification that specified the variance granted by the Planning Commission. He felt that what they're wanting to do would be very positive for the community but he doesn't want to see the negative come out later if someone found a loophole in the ordinance.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an amending Chapter 901 – Streets and Sidewalks Generally of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio by adding Section 901.21 – Permit Required.

Vice President Dunne moved that this legislation be passed.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes –0 nay, the Ordinance was passed.**

Ord. #63 2021
Amend
Chapter 901
Streets and
Sidewalks

The clerk gave a **third reading**, to an Ordinance amending Section 903.01 – Permit Required of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.

Vice President Dunne moved that this legislation be passed.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes –0 nay, the Ordinance was passed.**

Ord. #64 2021
Amend Section
903.01 Permit
Required

The clerk gave a **second reading**, to an Ordinance to amend the Zoning Map of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, by rezoning 2311 Timlin Hill Road from its current zoning of Residence “A” District to “Boarding House”.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitutes a second reading.

Vice President Dunne asked Solicitor Haas about the comments from Mr. Gambill and Solicitor Haas replied that he would put something together to make it clearer prior to the next meeting and will send it around to Council for review.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nay, a second reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance amending Section 947.06 (a)(1) – Permit Fees of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio to establish a user fee of \$250.00 for use of the stadium and a \$100.00 deposit for keys to the facility.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitutes a first reading.

Councilwoman Gordon asked if the fees for all non-profit agencies were waived? She felt that part of the problem was that we’re losing lots of keys and the city had to replace keys, but suggested keeping a key deposit or possibly having a reduced fee for non-profits. She said no matter who used it, there were cleanup fees and there were still things that had to be done and she hated to lose money. She said that as a co-director of a non-profit, she could see having a reduced fee but felt that it was valid for everyone to have some kind of fee so that the city wasn’t stuck holding the bag for any type of event. Mayor Johnson agreed with Ms. Gordon especially on the key deposit, maybe make a refundable deposit on the keys and other fees could be negotiated. Solicitor Haas advised that the ordinance says may charge and would be up to whomever handled the agreement whether it be the Service Director or the City Manager. Vice President Dunne said that when they received the \$25,000 grant, the locks were changed and if someone loses a key, they are expensive to replace. Mr. Dunne ask Manager Sutherland if he or any City Manager wanted to be the one to make the decision who uses the facility. Manager Sutherland stated that the key deposit was a definite because they were currently having trouble replacing the ones that were missing and if they bring the key back, the deposit would be returned. Mr. Dunne asked if a non-profit does use the facility and doesn’t pay the fee for cleaning, who pays for the cleanup, Mr. Sutherland replied that it would be on the city to cleanup or pay to have it cleaned. Mr. Dunne said that it could be an awkward position to be put in if someone says “this one group didn’t pay, why should we pay?” but he felt the key deposit should be there for everyone. Mayor Johnson said the same about the cleanup because what someone says is clean might not be to the city’s standards. Manager Sutherland said that was basically the recommendation from Notre Dame who uses the stadium more than anyone who suggested the cleanup fee. Mr. Dunne stated that his concern would be if Notre Dame had a home game and a non-profit used the facility the week before and it wasn’t cleaned, there would be pressure on the city and Notre Dame to figure out how to clean it which was unfair to Notre Dame. Mr. Dune suggested that everyone think about how it could be reworded and possibly amend it at the 2nd reading.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nay, a first reading was declared.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$35,000.00 into Fire Department 2021 CIP Equipment Line-Item No. 301.223.5533 for the purchase of a power cot and load system for Medic 4 in Sciotoville. 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: 5 ayes– 0 nays, the rule was suspended.

Vice President Dunne moved that the ordinance be passed.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nay, the Ordinance was passed.**

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a cooperative agreement to submit an application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the 2022 Scioto County/City Highway Improvement project.

Vice President Dunne moved that this legislation be adopted.

There were no questions or comments. **The role was called. VOTE: 5 ayes – 0 nay, the Resolution was adopted.**

Ord. #65-2021
Fire/EMS
Department
Equipment
power cot and
load system

Res. #19-2021
Cooperative
Agreement
application to
OPWC for
2022 Scioto
County and
City Highway
Improvement
project

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Bishop Roddick Wilson – 481 7th Street - Donora, PA – He is a former resident of Portsmouth and grew up in the public school system. Ms. Ratliff had been very helpful in him presenting this case to Council. He presented a petition list to Ms. Ratliff who submitted them to Manager Sutherland for 16th Street to be co-named Melvin Madison Way. He said that his family came to Portsmouth in 1920, the Madison's and Nemo's and his uncle served his community with distinction and was a World War II Veteran, Purple Heart recipient, was part of the legendary Pullman's Porter Car for the Railroad and was also a Professional Boxer. Tragically, he was killed in 1956 by a flooded viaduct in Portsmouth in which a pump malfunctioned. Unfortunately, the car went under the high water before he could get out and get his belongings, however his uncle was an accomplished swimmer but when the pump malfunctioned it sucked him underneath the water and he drown. He's asking the City of Portsmouth to "make a wrong – right" and naming part of the street Melvin Madison Way and he has faith that the City of Portsmouth will do the right thing. He's petitioning the Mayor, Council and the City Manager to make this happen.

Andy Cole – 2840 North Hill Road – He had previously mentioned that there were two things that everyone talked about with the roads being one and the second would be the safety of our neighborhoods. He would like to instill a sense of urgency to everyone about re-zoning our city. He asked to pay special attention moving forward and push this as an important item for the city to the single-family residents that currently allow either 5-6 unrelated people to live in the same house. It is important to Portsmouth as the zoning was being shaped as to where and when the business of transitional housing is and it's typically inappropriate for our residential neighborhoods.

Bryan Hicks - 84 Moundview – He's the President of the Portsmouth Firefighters Union and he urged Council to look at and consider the proposals for the Fire Department to make sure that the city was adequately taken care of in times of need. They were still seeing an increase in call volume; they had the largest month on record in the history of the department for runs in August and as of 3:00 p.m. today they're only a few runs from reaching that number again. They are doing the best they can with the amount of call volume and overlapping calls, but their luck was running out sooner than later. This past week they've had two house fires that personnel was tied up on and one case the second squad was downtown and happened to be staffed because people took overtime on their day off and went to Sciotoville and was lucky to clear the scene and take care of a critical patient in Sciotoville. On the second fire the exact opposite happened, the Sciotoville Medic 4 had to come to the city to help with a patient because our downtown crew was tied up with a fire. Unfortunately, this unit encountered a person that could not stand and needed help lifting onto the stretcher, but luckily some neighbors were near the area and able to help out. He could site examples all night long why their department was stretched very thin. He enjoys going to his kid's ballgame and having a life away from work, but as of right now a lot of members including myself at times weren't able to have that luxury. Every day someone was being asked to take overtime or being held over to keep the current staffing level. It has become clear in the city and the county that there was a pretty good chance that no other emergency services were coming to help. It is time for the city to start taking care of their own in every way possible. The members of the local union were present to ask Council to consider all of these proposals for the department especially for the extra personnel which were desperately needed to maintain a level of quality and pace of service to our city and the citizens. There is revenue being generated to help offset the cost as well as the Cares Act money and the American Rescue Plan money that was being sent to the city due to the pandemic. They are trying to be proactive and not rely on luck as a way of life for us in the city.

Eric Grimm – Secretary/Treasurer Portsmouth Firefighters Association – He said that the Chief’s point of concern was the staffing of the Portsmouth City Fire Department to answer the high demand for emergency services for the citizens. Their run volume had been increasing steadily for years and this past year they will have surpassed over 400 emergency calls per month by October. He added that with the increase they’ve seen a rise of instances where their available resources had been stretched beyond their limits resulting in fire responses with only one engine responding, EMS calls being stacked automatically which was forcing them to clear the hospital quickly in order to respond to the next emergency. An increase of the engines having to respond to other territories to cover runs and medical emergencies going unanswered “unanswered” for an extended amount of time due to no units being available, between themselves and local private services who were facing similar staffing issues. These instances have been made worse by the lack of reliability from those private services effectively eliminating the reliability to roll runs they were not able to cover themselves. They were aware of recent events when all of the available units had been out of the house and unavailable and were unable to quickly respond to the next emergency anywhere in the city. The temporary solution offered by Chief Bill Raison was to take the available unassigned firefighters that were on shift and assign them to Medic 2 which was a primary medic unit in Portsmouth proper. This effectively created another unit to cover the volume of calls from the citizens. They accomplished this with an increase in minimum manning, but this comes at a time when they were already short staffed from injuries, medical leave and resignations. This solution makes the citizens safer from having a broader coverage with another unit available but the local union and administration were aware of the strain this had placed on their members with the call volume, overtime and mandatory holdovers. Again, they were short staffed before they were forced to increase the minimum manning and none of them were unaffected by these circumstances and have had their medics being ran to the point of exhaustion on 24-hour shifts; they have engine companies facing the probability of being without backup in the event of a fire or other high risk or low frequency emergencies in the city. A major emergency in Portsmouth proper would leave Sciotoville without any backup. A major emergency in Sciotoville would result in Portsmouth proper being left with one or no engine companies remaining in the city which left them vulnerable to injury or death for the lack of manpower available for fires and medical emergencies. The quality of service that they’re providing to their citizens was also the ones that would be negatively affected by burnout, exhaustion and short staffing. A house fire with only two firefighters was not only dangerous to the firefighter, but also a great danger to any citizens trapped in that house with the probability of saving that structure or multiples structures which often occurs in this town was greatly reduced. The severity of the situation had not gone unrecognized by the union or Fire Chief and the local would like to encourage City Council to consider the proposal for 3 extra men, not only to help the firefighters to be able to do their jobs without facing exhaustion and danger that was unnecessary but to protect the citizens of our city who are at this moment are unaware that they’re lucky that they don’t get more than one emergency at the same time.

Vice President Dunne moved to recess into Executive Session with the City Manager, City Engineer and City Solicitor to discuss the potential purchase of property.

The role was called and the motion carried: **VOTE: 5 ayes– 0 nays**, Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.

Executive
Session

Vice President Dunne motioned to reconvene from Executive Session. Council reconvened with all still in attendance at 7:15 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

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

1. She attended a zoom meeting on September 20th, pertaining to the Housing Study.
2. She received the official Proclamation of the 2020 Federal Census results from the Ohio Secretary of State with the City of Portsmouth being at a population of 18,252.
3. She received several calls regarding Trick or Treat night in Portsmouth and it will be Saturday October 30th from 5-7 p.m. It is posted on the city’s website and facebook page.

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: 5 ayes– 0 nays**.

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

1. He advised that he along with the Police Department and Social Services went to the homeless camp under the viaduct to talk to the folks camped there and offered them some help and explained that they had approximately two-weeks to get their affairs in order because the city was going to clean that area. The city was trying to do the right thing by them to make their adjustment as easy as possible and offered them help. There was another camp that had started forming at 3rd and Madison and they will be talking to them too. Mayor Johnson advised for those that did not know, that viaduct had been set on fire several times and also had been closed down for a time to check the structure.

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: 5 ayes– 0 nays**.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Johnson reported the following:

1. He thanked Councilwoman Gordon for presiding over the September 13th Council meeting as he and Vice President Dunne were both absent.
2. He thanked Councilwoman Mosley for all of her efforts for bringing the Senior Olympics to Portsmouth. He knew that she had worked very hard and it was a successful event. He seen a lot of pictures on social media and heard great things.

3. He congratulated City Clerk Ratliff on receiving the Ellen Vetter Service award at the recent Farm to Table Dinner. He's very proud of her and thanked her for all of the work she does for the city.
4. He said that the recent monthly Health Department was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.
5. He received an invitation for a ribbon cutting at 4:00 p.m. at "83 Sweets" which was a new business in the 1st Ward at 609 2nd Street. He's been in the bakery and highly recommended it.
6. He advised Council that changes members had requested on the City Clerk's evaluation form had been made and those will go out to each Councilmember when she sends out the City Manager's evaluations and both evaluations could be done on the same night.

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: 5 ayes– 0 nays.**

Solicitor Haas Report – Solicitor Haas had no report.

Auditor Williams Report – Mr. Williams stated that his report had been emailed on September 15th.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward – Councilman Dunne reported the following:

1. He stated that one of the Frontier poles had been removed from the lot where the Skate Park will be located and was glad that City Engineer Prosch and Manager Sutherland were able to get that done.
2. He spoke to a lot of people about the electric aggregation program that they're hoping to put into place next year and would like to join other cities that had done it. He said the people he had spoken with were very positive about getting their personal utility bills reduced and getting the inner sources of energy.
3. He advised that he had received a lot more information on the Property Tax program that he and Councilman Martell have been working on. He hoped to be in a position to put it onto the Conference Agenda after it was discussed this evening. He said that Portsmouth would be the first city in Ohio to have this program and gave the example that, if Kevin went to 83 Sweets and bought \$100.00 worth of sweets, then usually a percentage of the sale would be applied to the property tax bill or in a rebate check if you're not a property owner. This was currently in 24 municipalities in the State of New Jersey and it was a program that he had spoken briefly about with Governor DeWine. He said that one of the things this would do would be to assist local business owners with increased foot traffic and assist people with reduced property tax bills or a rebate check. He said that the money that was allocated through the American Recovery Plan was eligible to be used in this program which would mean if there was money, it could help support the \$7.50 rather than coming from the business and would actually come from the money allocated from the federal level. He said the program was the winner of the innovative Government award from Harvard University and would be titled "Shop Portsmouth Program" which was similar to the one in New Jersey which was titled "Shop Marlborough" that was named after the township.
4. He spoke with an investor that looked to be buying a commercial building in the 1st Ward and would be making a substantial investment and was very excited for that possibility. He spoke very highly of City Council and the vacant building tax which was part of the reason they were encouraged to invest in the downtown and hoped that it moved forward.
5. He said it was nice to see the arrival of "83 Sweets" in the 1st Ward on 2nd Street and the planned arrival of the donut distillery on Chillicothe Street in the 2nd Ward.

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Gordon reported the following:

1. She congratulated all of the volunteers that helped with this year TOSRV event as it looked like a really fun time and there were bikers all over the downtown.
2. Last Wednesday she attended the Emancipation Day event that the Unity project had put together at Tracy Park and unfortunately the weather chased away a lot of people. It was really very well done and she congratulated them as it was a relatively young organization that had done a lot of historical theatrical performances around Emancipation Day and dealing with our history as a city. It was a very fun event and she looked forward to it being an annual event.
3. She too attended via zoom the housing study which was really very informative and much of the packet was about who we were as a city and the housing issues, but also there were some very good recommendations, strategic ways that we could use our code enforcement and different strategies that we could, as a city, start to change the dynamics of our housing problems.
4. She said that they had a really great Museum concert in the alley last week and there will be another this coming Friday October 1st at 6:00 p.m. with the Whirlybirds. She thanked the Scioto Foundation for providing these concerts as they are free and open to the public.
5. She spoke to Abby Spears about the energy proposal that will be on the ballot and they're hoping to get at least one informational meeting in the 2nd Ward so that everyone in the 2nd Ward knows exactly what they're voting on and it would be important for everyone to have a good comfort level when they go to the ballots in November.

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

1. He acknowledged all of the TOSRV riders that were all over our town and thanked them for participating.

4th Ward – Councilwoman Mosley reported the following:

1. She wished Diana a Happy Birthday as she had seen where she was celebrating on social media. Ms. Ratliff thanked her.
2. She had received many calls from residents about potholes and had turned those over to Manager Sutherland and those have been taken care of.
3. She apologized to Councilman Packard because she had a job done and posted it on facebook and got many people that attacked Dennis but that was not her intention at all, she was being thankful to Code Enforcement. She had a business owner that had kept putting her off, saying they were going to get their Engineer to take a look at it for months and she had Mr. Gedeon give them a courtesy call and immediately the front of their business was cleaned up and now they've resurfaced the parking lot and striped the lot and she was thankful that Mr. Gedeon had taken care of it.
4. She said the Southern Ohio Senior Games will be ending after this weekend's basketball which was 3 on 3, spot shot free throw at the SOMC Life Center and the swimming will be at Shawnee State University. She said that will conclude this year's games which have been very successful in Portsmouth. She is a part of the Ohio State Senior Olympics Board and attended a zoom meeting in which they said that the Portsmouth games was a well-oiled machine and the city was to be commended for believing in the health of the residents, and the city that sponsored them to be able execute what they do.
5. She said there was a vacant laundry mat on Kendall Avenue and a lot of the vagrants had tried to make it their home and as soon as the Police and Code Enforcement cleaned it up and moved them along, they would wait a few days and then come back. It had become a big eyesore in the 4th Ward. She thanked the Police Department for being vigilant in moving them along when they see them camped out there. They've been directing them over to the 17th Street homeless shelter. She said that currently the shelters were full but the 17th Street shelter still had some room for women and children.

5th Ward – Councilman Martell had no report due to absence.

6th Ward – Councilman Packard reported the following:

1. She thanked Councilwoman Mosley because there was a silver lining in that it motivated some of the volunteers and getting a routine established. They've decided on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. for about one-hour and Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. for about an hour, so if anyone wanted to come out and volunteer that would be great. They got all over Gallia Street from the underpass to the Little Scioto River cleaned up.
2. He said that during the cleanup he noticed that some of the art projects that local elementary and high school students had done was being muddled by someone dumping trash, concrete, bricks and dirt. He has asked Manager Sutherland to look into it to have it cleaned up.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Dunne.

City Clerk

Mayor