

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

Monday October 11, 2021

6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday October 11, 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
Dennis Packard	6 th Ward

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

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the Regular Session of September 27, 2021 on a motion by Councilman Martell. **The motion carried viva voce: VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Joseph Pratt – Executive Director of Main Street Portsmouth 342 2nd Street Portsmouth, OH – He explained that he had to step out after he speaks as he had another meeting to attend. He said that if any of the Council members would like to join him at the river, he could walk them through the project plan. He said when it came to Main Street’s programs across the State and Nationwide, most of them stay within a few blocks’ radius of their city and our Main Street was one of the largest by footprint downtown in Ohio and not only do they serve that area, but they also love helping other neighborhoods for example: The Unity Project mural at McKinley Pool and they planted over 50 trees there and helped the Tree Commission for the Bannon Park Arbor Day planting. They’ve helped out however they could in other areas. He said that all of the questions presented at the previous City Manager’s meeting were all completely valid and he felt had good answers to those questions. He said one question was “if we have an anonymous donor making a pledge to give half of the funding, why can’t we take that and move it somewhere else?” He said he would love to see something go in at Mound Park, but it would be a shame to put something of this size in Mound Park because that Parks investment needed to be much more sizeable and it could not be done for \$25,000. They were able to cut corners and save cost so heavily because the padding around the playground for the most part was about 90% intact and it could be preserved by cutting out the bad and replacing it with new, it would be mismatched but they will be bringing in AstroTurf to put over the top of it which would be good for the next 20-years, and if they had to start over, they would be losing an investment with what was already there. The material had significant cracks and a gentleman had advised him that they had to act because a lot of water and moisture was getting underneath the padding, freezing and expanding off and on throughout the year and would continue to deteriorate if not cared for properly. He said he would love to see McKinley Pool and Mound Park redone because he grew up at Mound Park and had spent years painting McKinley Pool and helping out when he could. He also knew that they need to be opportunistic when it came to investments and making this town better and you can’t do what needs to be done to these other places for \$25,000. This goes in hand with the playground/exercise equipment they’re looking at installing on the riverfront. The equipment should be reaching their supplier on October 23rd which would probably put them at a very early spring to have this project done and will be very nice to go into next season. He said that Main Street was very good stewards of their money and they try to preserve if possible. They also have partnerships with the trade unions and a good working relationship with Jack Tackett of the Service Department and with the help of these workers, they would be able to accomplish the playground much cheaper than what it was valued at.

Mayor Johnson welcomed Portsmouth Elementary School and the Threetown members. He said he had a Proclamation to read and would also be swearing in the members of the Threetown Council. He said Threetown was a city within a city and the leaders of that city were present.

P R O C L A M A T I O N

Whereas, in 2019 Portsmouth City Schools began working on a project titled Portrait of a Trojan, which reflected the characteristics that a Trojan graduate will possess to be ready for the 21st century world; and

Whereas, these characteristics include critical thinking, communication, collaboration, technology literacy, confidence and character. The purpose is to provide 21st century learning opportunities to all students that provide skills and knowledge to succeed in work and life; and

Whereas, Educators across the district were challenged to create 21st century learning opportunities for students, wherein the idea of Threetown was born. Jobs include, but are not limited to City Council, newspaper journalist, photographer, safety officer, maintenance crew, art council, mail carrier, and general store clerk. Future plans for the town include a recycling center, bakery, farmers market, bank, and the towns very own murals and celebrity stars; and

Whereas, every child has a place and purpose in Threetown based on their interests and skills.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kevin E. Johnson, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth and on the behalf of City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth proclaim Threetown officially open for operation and encourage their leadership in our community.

Mayor Johnson said that someday this current Council won't be here and these children were the Council of tomorrow. He gave the Oath of Office to Kalan Johnson the Mayor of PES Threetown. Clerk Ratliff gave that Oath of Office to Vice Mayor Josiah Green and Ward Representatives Maxton Marsh, Messina Askew and Colton Peach. She had each of them sign their oaths and they each received a copy of their oath and a city badge.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **third 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 the legislation be amended as follows: In the Preamble remove the words rezoning and Boarding House and add - by temporarily approving a variance to the current zoning for 2311 Timlin Hill Road from its current zoning of Residence "A" District Business "A" to permit the current owners only to operate a bed and breakfast. In the second paragraph remove to allow for their home to be defined as a boarding house and add- are requesting a temporary zoning variance at 2311 Timlin Hill Road for the term of their ownership of the property to permit their home to be used as a bed and breakfast. Section I remove Boarding House and add - by temporarily rezoning 2311 Timlin Hill Road from its current zoning of Residence "A" District to Business "A" to permit the current owners to operate a bed and breakfast. Section II add- for the specific purpose of the current owners (Trevor and Kara Copeland) to operate a bed and breakfast and.

The role was called. VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nay, the legislation was amended.

Item
Amended

Vice President Dunne moved that the legislation be passed.

Councilman Martell advised that he attended the tour that had been offered to City Council. He thanked the Copeland's for their generosity and they offered him different snacks from all around Portsmouth. He said the tour was spectacular and there was a lot of history surrounding the building.

Ord. #66 2021
Zoning map
change for a
variance for
2311 Timlin
Hill Road to a
bed and
breakfast

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

The clerk gave a **second 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 second reading.

Councilwoman Gordon asked about the changes that were previously discussed. Solicitor Haas said that he had made the changes and will email them so that Council will have a chance to look at it and if it's not what was wanted, let him know before the next meeting. Mayor Johnson ask about the changes being that everyone be charged the same amount and the reply was "yes".

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

Mayor Johnson said that there were quite a few young people present and he had promised their teachers and parents that the students could be excused early from the meeting. Portsmouth Elementary School was dismissed at this time and on behalf of all of Council, he thanked all of the children for Threetown and for attending the meeting.

Vice President Dunne motioned to add to the agenda as item 7(h) to repeal Ordinance No. 62 regarding the American Rescue and Recovery Act Fund and replace it with new legislation for the same amount but with an Exhibit A that breaks down the individual costs for the wastewater treatment plant.

Item
added

The motion carried viva voce: **VOTE: 6 ayes –0 nays**

Mayor Johnson asked if there were any statements or remarks from the public and no one was present that wanted to speak on the matter.

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$25,000.00 from Capital Improvement Fund No. 301 to be paid from Land Improvement Cemetery/Grounds Line-Item No. 301.333.5502 for new playground equipment for York Park.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitutes a first reading.

Auditor Williams said that the referenced account number called cemetery/ground 301.333.5502 needed to be changed to recreation/ground 301.335.5502

Vice President Dunne withdrew his motion and moved to amend from 301.333.5502 to 301.335.5502 and instead of cemetery/ground, it should read recreation/ground.

Item
amended

The role was called. VOTE: 6 ayes – 0 nay, the legislation was amended.

Councilman Packard mentioned the McKinley Pool (could not understand do to microphone issues). Councilwoman Gordon said at the previous meeting they had a very beneficial discussion about all of the parks and she felt that it was important to keep up and maintain a park on the waterfront where there will be increased development around it. She said the reason the pool was in a mess, was that it had deteriorated over the years and as Mr. Pratt had mentioned earlier, these were not just improvements, but stopping the deterioration that would continue to degrade the playground until it was totally not fit for anyone to use. She felt that it was important that as Portsmouth was trying to become a lifestyle city and attractive to young families to relocate to Portsmouth, all of these issues were important to look at. It was important to look at all of the parks, but it starts with one park at a time and they do have a very specific grant from a donor for this park and she would hate to see it not be utilized.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$30,636.00 from General Fund No. 101 for the purpose of installing an electric vehicle charging station capable of charging two vehicles concurrently.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitutes a first reading.

Councilwoman Gordon asked if these could be relocated at any point or if they were permanent? Manager Sutherland stated that as long as the technology doesn't outrun the current equipment, it could be set somewhere else. Ms. Gordon then asked about if street repairs and repaving would that interrupt the machine? Mr. Sutherland replied that it could, but this would be located where they had just paved. Councilman Martell asked about subsidies for the cost by asking for advertisements? Mr. Sutherland replied that they had not yet but that \$20,000 would be reimbursed from AEP and the city's cost would only be \$10,000.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the Auditor of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio to extend and modify the current contract with BHM CPA Group, Inc., an independent public accountant (IPA), to perform the annual financial and compliance audits of the City of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth City Health Department for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.

Vice President Dunne moved that this constitutes a first reading.

Auditor Williams said that this doesn't have to be passed tonight but he requested that it be passed at the next meeting so that the contracts could be processed through the state which took a little time.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution to accept the Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis received September 8, 2021.

Res. #20-2021
Accepting the
2021 Housing
Study

Vice President Dunne moved that this legislation be adopted.

Councilman Packard said that the 6th Ward was a hotspot for revitalization and something that was discussed in past meetings and would like the 6th Ward to be added to the master plan. It was a major entry and exit to the city. He said under priority one he would like to add part of the revitalization clean up to be along Route 52 as you enter Sciotoville for that dilapidated petroleum storage area that had been sitting there for 25-years and was an eyesore for people coming into and exiting our city. He said the study also talked about the natural resources being one of our best amenities and a lot of people don't realize that the only beach along the river was actually in the 6th Ward which was right below that storage facility and if it were added as a priority and cleaned it up it would be very nice. Mayor Johnson asked Manager Sutherland how this request could be added? Mr. Sutherland said that he could check on it. Mr. Packard said that the authors show that hot spots were ripe for revitalization which was their own definition and asked for the 6th Ward to be included for the revitalization.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to a Resolution authorizing the co-naming of 16th Street between Findlay and Waller Streets as "Melvin Madison Way".

Res. #21-2021
Co-naming
16th Street
Melvin
Madison Way

Vice President Dunne moved that this legislation be adopted.

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

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance authorizing the repeal of Ordinance No. 62 passed September 13, 2021, and to accept \$2,111,571.85 into and establishing the American Rescue and Recovery Act Fund No. 291 and appropriate the amount of \$300,000.00 of that funding for the design of the Munns Run Pumping Station, \$762,000.00 for the projects listed in the attached "Exhibit A" and the remainder of the funding, \$1,049,571.85, be appropriated towards the New Water Treatment Plant, Franklin Furnace Pumping Station and Munns Run Sewer Pump Station construction projects. 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.

Ord. #67 2021
American
Rescue and
Recovery Act

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

The role was called. VOTE: 6 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: 6 ayes – 0 nay, the Ordinance was passed.**

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Karen Hill 1404 McConnell Avenue Portsmouth – She is one of the founders of the neighborhood watch group in Mound Park and wanted to address the playground equipment in Mound Park. She asked for the current wooden playground to be torn down, she knew that the wood was an issue and having to get rid of it was an issue. She suggested coming up with a waiver for a contractor to come in and take the wood away which shouldn't be a big deal and the city wouldn't have the extra cost of having some company come to tear it down. She said there was one sign on the Grant Street side telling people not to get on the structure. She took a picture of the park in which they had boards missing from the fence on the backside and people walk down the hill and get on the equipment, possibly doing illegal things and putting graffiti all of the equipment. It is an eyesore and was dangerous and they need to get rid of it as soon as possible. She said that the picnic shelters over to the side of the playground equipment cannot be safely sat in because of the holes in the roof and if there's any kind of rain at all, you'd get wet no matter where you're sitting and that nails were coming through the picnic tables. She said they were having issues with Police Officers patrolling, there were dirt bikes, four-wheelers and she's worked with the Dispatchers, worked with the Chief and they've done everything they could and she understood that they send someone when they can because of the workload of the Police Department. They make the calls to tell them there's a dirt bike and sometimes the Dispatchers don't even know there's an ordinance that they're not supposed to do it, but the more seasoned Dispatchers do know. She said they would bring their dirt bikes up there at night

with no lights which was illegal, being there after dark was illegal and having a dirt bike in the park was illegal which was three things that they're doing that was illegal. She said that someone set off fireworks and left a humongous pile of trash on the basketball courts from where they were setting off super boomers. She added that a Police Officer came but didn't stop and it went on until 1:00 a.m. She advised that Connex had invested a lot of money for the park and not only were the four-wheelers tearing up the park, they're getting on the paved areas and she feared that they would tear them up too. She said that when Connex did their job, they were promised cameras and she questioned what happened to the cameras because the Police Department was supposed to be monitoring the park. She said that right now, their watch group were the bad guys because they're the ones having to call the police. She said she and Jim Kalb had walked up into the park and there was a bleacher that had been turned over but since then had been corrected. She said these weren't just kids, these were young adults or older adults and people were also painting on the concrete by the buildings. She wanted to know why their park wasn't being utilized like Tracy Park, because they see things that pop up in the news where events were being held all the time in Tracy Park. She said they have more people in their area and they want their park utilized. She added that there were three Councilmembers that were in that area and part of Mound Park and they need help from Council. They've been in existence for three-years and have 400+ members, but cannot do it by themselves. She said that former Chief Ware had told them that a lot of the neighborhood watch groups go under because they don't want to continue and they had super support when they started and now, she doesn't feel like she had the support. They don't have a liaison anymore and wasn't sure if they would be assigned another liaison through the Police Department. She said they wanted to thank the City Garage because they've been doing the once-a-month pickup of trash and they've been super and you couldn't ask for a better group of guys. When she calls the Police Department, they're usually there quickly but she can't seem to get them to the park.

Bryan Hicks -Portsmouth Firefighters Union President – He's asking again for Council to look at the agenda that the Chief had provided for them. As of right now, they were back up in calls, 444 last month and a new record for the department and he doesn't see the volume going down. They're trying to help all the citizens that they can, but overlapping calls were starting to become more frequent. He said that recently in the past few weeks, they've had four house fires and again their units were tied up on the house fires and luckily a couple of times they were able to get away and make the medical calls. He said they would love to have six additional men, but only asking for three and they want to try and take care of the city the best that they can. All of their members train in other disciplines as well, they have divers on staff, they have a swift water team that actually go out and make rescues in the county. They were not just the city, but they help the rest of the entire county in their time of need. They have rescue technicians for any kind of confined space or any other kind of rescues that were needed across the city and all of firefighters were highly trained and they're asking for help and they just need a few more guys to help take care of the volume of call that was constantly increasing. He said years ago before he was hired, his dad was Union President, the Fire Department gave back to the city in their time of need, they gave away members, gave away pay and everything else along the way to help the city and now they're asking for the city to come back and help them.

Eric Grimm – Secretary/Treasurer for Portsmouth Firefighters Association – He said that he was concerned for the health and safety of the citizens that they were sworn to protect and concerned about the physical and mental strain that was being placed on their firefighters with the excessive call volume and above all, their cries for help were falling on deaf ears and prays he's wrong about that. He said at the last meeting he presented a serious of numbers and referenced times that they were having calls stacked on them. He had notes from a recent event and something that had happened nearly every shift to them at least once if not multiple times of what they call "empty the house" which was when there were no remaining units to answer further calls which occurred on October 6, 2021 at 03:58 a.m. Medic 2 responded to an EMS call and at 04:30 a.m. a report of a single family dwelling structure fire came through and at that time Medic 2 was still out of service on that call which was two firefighters because all of their members perform all duties, so two firefighters were out of service on an EMS call and due to the fire, the ladder truck responded which also cross staffs a Medic unit, so those two units were out of service because of the structure fire. At 04:56 a.m. when Medic 2 cleared their previous call they were immediately sent to another and never manage to respond to the house fire to assist their brother firefighters. At 05:00 a.m. another EMS call came in with no unit available to respond and at 05:18 a.m. Medic 2 was dispatched to that previous call while still handling the 04:56 call. They responded when they were capable which was 23 minutes from the 911 call to the first unit on scene and in his opinion 23-minutes for a medical emergency was unacceptable. Situations like this was why the Portsmouth Firefighters Association fully support Chief Raison's measure to request the additional firefighters to increase staffing and would greatly reduce the probability of having a lack of firemen on a fire scene and alleviate some of the strain of having stacked EMS calls on their members and the citizens that call for them.

Hannah Grimm – 1804 State Route 139 Portsmouth (Secretary to the Fire Chief) – She said these gentlemen from the Fire Department have done a great job of presenting numbers, facts and examples, however as the daughter, friend, niece, cousin and wife of firefighters, she felt lead to present a slightly different perspective on the staffing request. A fireman and EMS were professions with a lot of risk, however, she believed that they should be calculated ones and fully believed that when they swore an oath to protect life and property in the City of Portsmouth, her friends did so with a reasonable expectation that they'd be provided with the tools they needed to do the job safely. They believed the city would provide equipment, education, safety gear and at least one other person to have their back while they're facing dangers. However, if the number of runs continue to increase and they spread themselves thinner and thinner in order to continue protecting the citizens with your resources, she worried the city was starting to let down their end of that deal. As a person who worked and spent most of her day in town, she loved the things that were happening locally with businesses, attractions, car charging stations were fantastic, but couldn't help but wonder why any new business or family would want to set up shop here if the local government doesn't value the protection of life and property above all. She pays taxes, she watches them leave her check every payday and she was begging Council to use that money for what matters

right now, which was her safety, their safety, your safety and the safety of every single person who comes to the City of Portsmouth.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

City Clerk's Report – Clerk Ratliff had no report.

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

1. He realized that the Portsmouth Elementary children were gone, but it was a proud night to be a Portsmouth Trojan.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Johnson reported the following:

1. He was very proud of the Trojans that were present tonight and was excited about seeing these young men and women who would be our leaders of tomorrow. These were some bright young men and women. He thanked Portsmouth City Schools for Threetown and what they're doing and for coming to City Council.

Solicitor Haas Report – Solicitor Haas had no report.

Auditor Williams Report – Mr. Williams congratulated the Friends of Greenlawn Cemetery on another successful act and venture that they done for the past four-years. Another success with "The Story of Us"

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

1st Ward – Councilman Dunne reported the following:

1. He was able to meet with WSAZ and WOWK and on the second one WOWK, he was joined by Shawnee State University students and they spoke about the fundraiser Portsmouth Skate Park project was running which was a raffle of Machine Gun Kelly tickets and a two-night stay in Cleveland with all of the proceeds going towards the establishment of an endowment fund for the park so that in the future, annual maintenance costs would be covered.
2. He had continued to work on the Shop Portsmouth program and believed they had identified a sponsor as the program required \$10,000 annually and was very glad that it appeared to be lined up, but still needed finalized. He also, had continued to speak to local businesses about joining the program as he was aiming for 15-20 businesses to get it up and running. He would be bringing legislation forward to be adopted as he would like it to begin in January. He said the company was currently reviewing the plan with the County Treasurers office and he hoped they could work out a way for their software to work. It would be a great program for Portsmouth residents as well as Portsmouth businesses.
3. He received a call and spoke with Portsmouth Ambulance and he thought they had contacted Manager Sutherland as they would like to add information to the discussion about various volumes of runs

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Gordon reported the following:

1. She thanked Code Enforcement for taking down a burned house in the 2nd Ward which had been a problem near 13th Street and it was very nice that it had been removed.
2. She said on the upcoming ballot, they have an energy issue. She had planned two town hall meetings to happen in the second ward to discuss the pros and cons of this bill. She had received a lot of questions and the rest of Council had received a lot of questions and people want to have an educated vote. The two meetings will be: Wednesday October 13th from 5:30 -6:30 at Port City in the front room and for those that don't want to meet inside, the following week on Thursday October 20th from 6:00 – 7:00 at the Lofts Patio under the tent. Abby Spears was very active in this program and would be running the town hall meeting and bringing all the facts to the table. She asked voters to bring their questions and they would try to cut through the partisanship and put the facts on the table.
3. She said that when she walked through town, she received lots of comments with being on City Council and one comment that she's heard a lot was "why do we waste time talking about, discussing all of these items?" She said that the way the structure for the meetings was set up, Council does their business with their Council Agenda which was usually gone through fairly quickly most nights and these were items that had already been discussed, the details for the most part had already been hammered out and each Councilmember gave their report. She said because of the Sunshine laws, City Council couldn't talk in general, they can't send a text around and say let's go meet at Patties & Pints and talk about this one thing that we might be able to do. That is illegal and Council was not allowed to do that; to talk about business or how they might vote in a meeting. She said after the Council meeting, it was followed by a City Manager's agenda and at the end of that agenda if there were any items that any City Council member wanted to talk about, they

ask the Manager to put it on as a discussion item. This becomes the end of the evening discussion time and was the time that they got to think about big ideas. This Council was trying to move the city forward and solve a lot of problems and if any viewers consider this a waste of time, you're welcome to turn off facebook or leave at that point. This was the time they get to brainstorm and think out loud and outside the box, sometimes these ideas move on and become legislation and other times they do not, but any time you have a Council that was running a city, discussing future plans was not a waste of time. The approach and outlook of when Council was talking about things, this was the dinner table and they get to talk about different things. She felt that a lot of people don't understand the process and when you hear Council discussing things at the end of the evening, this was the one time they get to talk about it.

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

1. He asked Manager Sutherland to follow up with the Mound Park issue.

4th Ward – Councilwoman Mosley reported the following:

1. She toured with Councilman Martell the Health Department and got to meet a lot of the employees and it was very interesting.
2. 2021 Southern Ohio Senior Games ended October 2nd was Basketball and October 3rd was Swimming. It was amazing that they had three gentlemen show up who had not seen one another in 40-years. They had swum on Bowling Green's Swim Team and they showed up to compete at Shawnee State but hadn't seen one another in 40-years and it was very interesting for all of us.
3. She thanked Karen for bringing that information forward about Mound Park and she was a member of the Mound Park watch and they make her job easy in the fourth ward.

5th Ward – Councilman Martell reported the following:

1. He'll be sending an email to Manager Sutherland with a list of problems that needed attention.
2. He accepted an invitation from Friends of Greenlawn to attend the "Story of Us" at Greenlawn Cemetery; it was spectacular and a great production. A few years ago, he helped pick weeds near the fence line and pressure washed the fencing to prep them for painting but never really understood the "why" and didn't have the vision of what they had done until he watched the production and it was great to see the reason why he had put in some of that work. Many volunteers put in a lot of work and that group had done some great things for the cemetery. If anyone has the opportunity to go see next year's production, please do, it will definitely inspire you.
3. He congratulated "83" Sweets for coming into Portsmouth. He had received an invitation to the soft opening and tried several of their samples. This business does have some needs that the city may be able to help with and will meet with Councilman Dunne and Manager Sutherland.
4. He was contacted by and met with Community Action Organization (CAO) Head Start to speak about some items that need to be addressed by the City Manager in regard to street signs for the school zone. He will be getting them in contact with the Portsmouth Street Art project to do some awesome crosswalks with the kids. He said that during that meeting, they spoke a lot about Mound Park and the Head Start was willing to work with the city and he had been working with Andy Gedeon and other individuals like Scioto County DD and Southern Ohio Autism projects and trying to put together a group of people to be able to do something about Mound Park. The Mound Park project had been in the works for some time now and it will be costly, but worth it and he hoped to outline more details in the coming weeks. CAO Head Start had a new director and her name is Sarah Sloan and he also met with Carla Womack. They would love to help with the project and they have resources that the city doesn't have available and it would be a great asset to partner with them to get something done about Mound Park.

6th Ward – Councilman Packard reported the following:

1. He thanked Manager Sutherland and the Service Department, because the children in the 6th Ward have an art project that was right as you enter the first exit in Sciotoville and someone had been using it as a dumping area and since the last meeting the Service Department had cleaned it all up.
2. He said that he also visited the monastery and thanked the Copeland's for all of the work that they've done because they've taken a wonderful piece of Portsmouth's heritage and restored it and was in the city's vision of being a destination city.
3. He thanked Karen Hill for attending and he was also on the Mound Park watch list and received a lot of her posts and had seen a lot of the newsfeeds and over the years. She had done a lot of work for the city.

Mayor Johnson recognized all of the Firefighters that attended the meeting this evening as well as the Mound Park watch group, Portsmouth Ambulance, Portsmouth Elementary and all of the others that chose to attend and thanked them for being involved and caring about the city.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:26 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Dunne.

City Clerk

Mayor