

MINUTES – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Portsmouth City Charter, Portsmouth City Council members and members-elect met in an organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

The meeting was called to order by City Solicitor John Haas. A prayer was given by Councilwoman Lyvette Mosley and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Solicitor Haas called for nominations for the selection of a temporary Chairperson. Councilman Cole nominated John Haas and Councilwoman Mosley made a second motion for John Haas. Mr. Haas called for other nominations and there were none, nominations were closed. The motioned carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, John Haas was appointed as temporary Chairman.**

Chairman Haas called for nominations for an acting City Clerk. Councilman Sandlin nominated Diana Ratliff and Councilwoman Gordon seconded the motion. Chairman Haas called for other nominations and there were none, Chairman Haas closed the nominations. The motioned carried viva voce: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, Diana Ratliff was appointed as acting City Clerk.**

Solicitor Haas administered the Oath of Office for 2nd Ward Councilwoman Charlotte Gordon, 4th Ward Councilwoman Lyvette Mosley and 6th Ward Councilman Dennis Packard.

Chairman Haas called for a motion to accept the letter on performance bonds from the City Auditor. Councilman Dunne motioned to accept the City Auditor’s letter regarding performance bonds and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mosley. **The roll was called: VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, the letter was accepted.**

Roll Call showed the following member to be present:

Sean Dunne	1 st Ward
Charlotte Gordon	2 nd Ward
Andy Cole	3 rd Ward
Lyvette Mosley	4 th Ward
Joey Sandlin	5 th Ward
Dennis Packard	6 th Ward

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

Chairman Haas opened the floor for nominations for the position of President of Council with the Title of Mayor. Councilman Sandlin nominated Charlotte Gordon. Chairman Haas called for other nominations and Councilman Packard nominated Councilman Dunne. There were no other nominations, Chairman Haas closed the nominations. The roll was called for Councilwoman Gordon: **VOTE: ayes 4 – nays 2 (S. Dunne, D. Packard), Charlotte Gordon was named as President of Council with the title of Mayor.**

Chairman Haas opened nominations for Vice President of Council. Mayor Gordon nominated Councilwoman Mosley for Vice President of Council and Chairman Haas called for other nominations Councilman Packard nominated Councilman Dunne. There were no other nominations, Chairman Haas closed the nominations. The roll was called for Lyvette Mosely: **VOTE: ayes 4 – nays 2 (S. Dunne, D. Packard), Councilwoman Lyvette Mosley was appointed Vice President of Council.**

Chairman Haas opened nominations for City Clerk. Councilman Sandlin motioned that Diana Ratliff be appointed as City Clerk and Mayor Gordon seconded the motion. Chairman Haas called for other nominations, there were none, Chairman Haas closed the nominations. The roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 6 -nays 0, Diana Ratliff was re-appointed City Clerk.**

Solicitor Haas administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Gordon, Vice President Mosley, and City Clerk Ratliff.

Chairman Haas asked Council if they had reviewed the rules of Council and asked if there were any requests for changes, there were none. Councilwoman Mosley motioned to continue to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilman Packard. There were no further questions or comments, the roll was called: **VOTE: ayes 6 – nays 0, the rules were accepted and adopted.**

REMARKS FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL:

There was no one present who wanted to address members of City Council.

Oath of Office 2nd Ward Charlotte Gordon, 4th Ward Lyvette Mosley, 6th Ward Dennis Packard

Elected Charlotte Gordon as President of Council with title of Mayor

Elected Lyvette Mosley as Vice President of Council

Re-appointed Diana Ratliff as City Clerk

Oath of Office President of Council Gordon, VP Mosley, City Clerk Diana Ratliff

REMARKS TO THE CITIZENS BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1st Ward – Councilman Dunne stated that over winter break at Shawnee State, he was able to put together the legislative agenda for the past two years, both chronologically and individually and he will submit that at Council’s first meeting during his report. He felt it was something that needed done on a bi-annual basis. He said that there were a number of ballot measures that were defeated at election time, but felt it was due to lack of communication. He said that part of what they were trying to develop for cities along the Ohio River was to request more information from constituents but also, document legislation that was taking place. He’ll make it more public by sharing on facebook and email. He hoped to have an analysis done by May 2024 regarding the sidewalk review that had been discussed with the City Engineer.

2nd Ward – Councilwoman Gordon thanked Sean Dunne for the two years’ service as Mayor and leading the city. She said for the past two years as a Council they hadn’t always all agreed, but they had gotten a fair amount of work done for the city and Council should be very proud of this work. She thanked Council for their confidence of placing her in the position as Mayor and she accepted it and promised to do the best of her abilities.

3rd Ward – Councilman Cole emulated President’s Gordon’s thoughts on what Council had been through. He came onto Council two-years ago “green” with lots of hopes of things that didn’t happen and things that they’re still fighting for and passionate about and he’s seen and experienced so much hard work from Council whether it be setting up Ward-Walkers or other things that could be mentioned that everyone had played a part in bringing our city to where it is currently. He hasn’t seen this much activity out of past Councils in quite a long time and was very proud of his time on Council and to be working with each and every Councilmember. He felt they each brought something unique and special to the table and he looks forward to another two-years with this Council.

4th Ward – Councilwoman Mosley thanked each member of Council and as Councilman Cole said that this Council has had a lot going on in our city to its betterment. She thanked Councilman Dunne for leading the way to help get a lot of the projects done and she’s been very proud to work beside him as well as all of Council. She said that there were still things that need to be done, such as communicating to the constituents of our city and letting them know things that were happening with different projects around the city. She felt honored from those that appointed her for her first three years on Council and to the constituents that came out to vote for her in the 4th Ward and to Council for appointing her to the role as Vice President. She said that without God she would be nothing and could do nothing and gave him all the honor and the glory for who she is today.

5th Ward – Councilman Sandlin said he was thankful for the past two years of serving on Council and had learned a lot. He had a lot of expectations and found out that some problems were more complex that he originally thought, but in these past two-years there had been a vast amount of legislation passed. He said the Zoning legislation was a large project as well as the new Water Treatment facility and the new City Hall. He’s excited for the next two-years.

6th Ward – Councilman Packard asked those listening that over the next four-years he hoped those in the 6th Ward would help him by weighing in on how they feel about things as well as the things they’ll be voting on. He asked that they get involved with the community and hoped to see more volunteerism with the Community School, Little League and Ward Walkers who help to clean the wards.

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Mosley.

City Clerk

Mayor