MINUTES – SPECIAL SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday August 3, 2026
6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in special session on Thursday July 30, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the New City Building.

Mayor Charlotte Gordon called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Councilman Malone offered prayer and it was followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call showed the following members to be present:

David Malone	1st Ward
Charlotte Gordon	2nd Ward
Andy Cole	3rd Ward
Lyvette Mosley	4th Ward
Chris Neff	5th Ward
Dennis Packard	6th Ward

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

CLERK'S REPORT

In accordance with Section 4 of the City's Charter, City Council requested a special meeting of Council for the purpose of amending Ordinance No. 30 of 2026 to submit to the electors of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, at the General Election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026 a proposed renewal tax levy for the Street Resurfacing Levy of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, after declaring the amount of taxes that may be raised by levy at the maximum rate authorized by law without a vote of the electors to be insufficient and to repeal Ordinance No. 30 of 2026. Notices were given to each Council Member, City Manager, Solicitor and Auditor and acknowledgements were received from all of the above except Auditor Williams who was unavailable.

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

STATEMENTS OR REMARKS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was no one present that wished to address Council on items on the agenda.

LEGISLATION

The clerk gave a **first reading**, to an Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 30 of 2026 to submit to the electors of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, at the General Election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026 a proposed renewal tax levy for the Street Resurfacing Levy of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, after declaring the amount of taxes that may be raised by levy at the maximum rate authorized by law without a vote of the electors to be insufficient and to repeal Ordinance No. 30 of 2026. 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. #34 2026 Amend and Repeal Ord.30-2026 and resubmit proposed renewal tax levy for street paving

Vice President Mosley motioned that the three-reading rule be waived.

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

Vice President Mosley moved that the legislation be passed.

Solicitor Haas expressed his appreciation for coming together again in one week for a special meeting. He advised that after this was viewed at the Board of Elections there were a few items that needed to be changed and after much back-and-forth with the County Prosecutor's Office, Board of Elections and the State of Ohio, we finally have it lined up and he appreciated the efforts by Council so that we can get this filed and on the ballot in the fall.

Vice President Mosley asked if he knew there was something wrong with the legislation or was that the process? Solicitor Haas replied that he would never have presented it if he had thought it was incorrect and thankfully Clerk Ratliff took it to the Board of Elections Tuesday morning and he was advised by the county that there was a change in the law back in January and the city hadn't done a levy this year so he wasn't aware of the new law. There were language changes which some would say it was more open, but it had become a very political item to pass or present tax levies. He said that it didn't make much of a difference in the end but to be safe, the changes were made. Councilman Malone said that we want to be upfront with the public to put them at ease that

there wasn't something amiss. Solicitor Haas said that where the check mark places for the ballot were located the previous ordinance had the word "renewal" and they requested that it be removed and wanted the actual dollar amounts from the estimated property tax revenue certificate. He said that the city had broken it down for an amount per $100,000, originally it was requested that the auditor's tax value be used and then they changed it again to make it the auditor's market value.

Councilman Packard asked if the change require the 5-year over the 1-Year and Solicitor Haas advised that it had always been 5-year levies, but the difference now was that it points out when it begins and when it ends.

Solicitor Haas stated that after speaking with the County Prosecutor's office, they begin writing their drafts on their levies as soon as they know one was going to expire and they get theirs adopted/passed with plenty of time to spare. He thanked Maggie Miller with the County Prosecutor's office for her help as she spent a lot of time getting this straightened out to make certain that it would be accepted by the State of Ohio.

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

Councilman Packard asked for an Executive Session to discuss employee matters and Solicitor Haas advised that it couldn't be done in a Special Session, we have to adhere to the actual topic.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:12 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Mosley.

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City Clerk Mayor