

**CONFERENCE/WORK SESSION
PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL**

Monday, October 12, 2009
(overview)

Present were all members of Council, the Mayor, the Solicitor and the City Clerk.

CL 09-56

The Mayor requested Council to approve the preparation of legislation authorizing the mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for required supplies, materials and services for 2010 in accordance with ORC Section 735.05.

On a motion by Bob Mollette, the legislation was authorized, as requested.

In response to the Mayor asking if anyone would be interested in discussing the Juvenile Detention Center, Bob Mollette said he needed more information – overall cost and from where the money will come. He also wanted to know what the plans were for the present building and noted that any increased fees for improved infrastructure will affect the fees the citizens pay and he wanted to make sure we were living within our means. Mr. Mollette wanted to know in what direction the City will go after relocation of the police department and suggested exercising caution noting the public has spoken with regard to the Marting's Building.

Jerrold Albrecht stated that he had heard a rumor that Judge Kirsch was interested in reopening the juvenile center in a couple of years and wanted to know the judge's intentions.

Chief of Police, Charles Horner, said he has met with Judge Kirsch, who would ideally want to reopen the facility but realistically knows it won't happen. Chief Horner said he thinks the Judge would like to see the building as a police station.

In response to Mr. Mollette's remarks noted Council to have been given many different options and he did not know what more information they want. He said he thought this proposal was a good answer to placing the police department in a different setting. The Mayor felt this would take the police department out of the equation when other offices are relocated. He inquired as to what council wants to do, noting this proposal is being presented as an option. He noted there to be all kinds of options and wanted to know how Council wants them presented.

Mike Mearan expressed interest in touring the building and asked the Mayor to make the arrangement. Jerrold Albrecht suggested a time and place be determined and this information be advertised so the public can be invited to attend.

In response to the Mayor suggesting a recess from a formal meeting, the Solicitor again advised against attending as a public body but saw no problem with individual members of Council touring the facility. He also suggested the Mayor should contact Judge Kirsch. The Solicitor felt this discussion should be made a part of the Mayor's conference agenda and the public should be made aware when the issue is on the agenda.

Upon the Mayor stating that he would put something on his next agenda, Richard Noel requested some kind of dollar figure for renovating the present building and how much additional space will be made available if the police department is relocated. He felt the City offices should remain in this building because of the "good parking". The Mayor again reported that upon acquiring the last estimate for renovation of this building the City was told that it would be a waste of funds to put any money in this building.