

Council Minutes

January 6, 2014

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City council was held on Monday, January 6, 2014 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Aldermen Richard Baraw and Denis Chenette, City Manager John Ward Jr., City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Penny Thomas, Chief DiSanto, Jade Walker, Greg McDonald members of the Press and Public. Alderman Delabruere was absent.

Mayor Monette opened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Baraw moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2013 as printed. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Discussion of Newport Flower Project

Penny Thomas asked the council to support the project with a donation of \$1,500 per year for three years. Mr. Ward noted that funds could come from the Street Banner line item and from council special projects. Mr. Baraw moved to use \$1,500 to support the Rose Category out of the current budget. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Consider Tar Sands Resolution -- Sierra Club of Vermont (attached)

Greg McDonald and Jade Walker from the Sierra Club asked that the council put a resolution on the ballot opposing the transport of tar sands oil through Vermont. Mr. Baraw stated that it was city policy not to put anything on the ballot that did not directly affect the City. There was discussion as to whether or not the City was obliged to put the resolution on the ballot if they obtained the signatures on a petition. Mr. Wilson stated that they could bring a petition in and the council would at that time make the decision whether or not to include it on the ballot at City meeting.

Consider Proposed Ordinance Changes

Chief DiSanto stated that he had cleared up language in Section #85 and added Standing of Motor Vehicles to Section #94. Mr. Chenette moved to approve the amendments to sections 85 & 94 of Newport City Ordinances. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

Request Permission to Proceed with City Wide Reappraisal (attached)

Mr. Willson moved to begin the process of a city wide reappraisal. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Review Current Budget Status

Mr. Ward noted the only problem was Police Department overtime, most of the budgeted amount has been used.

Continue Review of FY 14-15 Budget

Mayor Monette asked if we would have the same problem with police overtime next year. Mr. Ward stated that he and Chief DiSanto felt that going to twelve hour shifts would take care of it. Mayor Monette noted that \$1,500 needed to be added to the budget. Mr. Ward stated he would use the \$900 for flower beds this year and increase flower beds to \$2,400 next year. Mr. Chenette felt the budget should be cut by another \$50,000 for next year. Mr. Willson stated he would not support the proposed budget as long as the money for a new police officer was in it. Mr. Chenette moved to table the proposed budget until next meeting to allow the City Manager to trim another \$50,000. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

New Business

Mr. Johnson presented a request for Niles Funds. Mr. Chenette moved to approve the request for Niles funds. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

Mr. Baraw noted pot holes on Union St.

Mayor Monette commended the city crew for a good job during the last storm. He also commended the electrical workers and volunteers at the Fire Station who provided the meals.

Mr. Johnson will remind the Old Stone House Museum that they need a petition.

Mr. Ward has sent out bid invitations on the Stallion. One bidder needs the Stallion by January 29th. Mr. Ward will contact all bidders to see who will pay the most. Mr. Baraw moved that the City Manager sell the Stallion to maximize funds for the City. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting Date

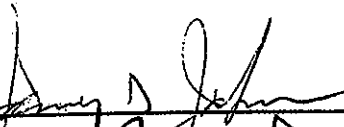
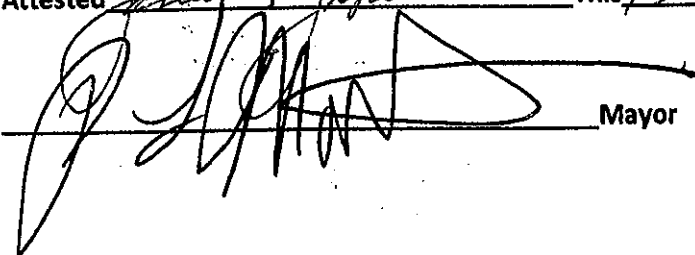
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Executive Session – Real Estate Issue

None

Adjourn

Mr. Baraw moved to adjourn at 8:51 PM. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Attested  This 13 Day of January 2014
 Mayor