

Council Minutes
January 09, 2012

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City council was held on Monday, January, 9, 2012 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, Paul Dreher, Andy Cappello, Paul Duquette, Jamie LaClair, Trish Sears, Tom Bernier, Bill Morrisson, Richard Cartee, Tim Cartee, members of the Press and Public. Alderman Delabruere was absent.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of December 19, 2011. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

Newport City Renaissance Update

Trish Sears updated the council on what Newport Renaissance had done in the past year and what their plans are for the coming year. Trish also briefed the council on the planned renovations and construction at the airport. Newport Renaissance is applying for a two year Active Living by Nature Grant. They would like the city to participate in the project by committing to in kind services, mainly from the Recreation Department. The council was concerned about how much time the city would have to commit to. Mr. Ward approved of the City being involved; we will help where we can. He supported the in kind effort the question is how much. The council agreed to issue a letter of support for the grant but will not commit to a specific amount of in kind services. Mr. Baraw moved to approve a letter of support for the Active Living by Nature grant. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Consider Appointment to Planning Commission

Mr. Chenette moved to table until the Planning Commission reviews the applicants and makes a recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

Review Income/Expenses Report for Current Year

Council reviewed the current year budget status.

Request Approval for Planning & Zoning Administrator to Attend New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in San Diego

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the request using the budgeted items for education and travel towards the trip. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

FY 12-13 Budget Discussion

Mr. Ward noted the only major change was an increase of \$10,000 in Police Admin Vacation because Chief Duquette is retiring in August. Mr. Baraw moved to approve the 2012-2013 budgets. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Request Permission to Negotiate New Lease with AT&T for Cell tower Site

Mr. Wilson moved to authorize the City Manager to negotiate with AT&T for the cell tower lease. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Request Motion to Reaffirm Previous Resolution in support of a Planning Grant Under the Vermont Development Program for the Northeast Kingdom Tasting Center

Mr. Baraw moved to reaffirm the previous resolution for a planning grant for the Tasting Center. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Sign Certificate of Highway Mileage

The council signed the certificate of Highway Mileage.

New Business

Chief Duquette would like to see the process started for hiring a new Police Chief. There was some discussion on who would serve on the interview committee. Procedures for hiring the new chief will be on the next agenda.

Mr. Baraw moved to approve a Niles fund request. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Mr. Cartee from the North Country Union Board felt the council should know that in regards to the new track facility the committee had secured \$20,000 of in kind services and that \$50,000 had been raised in donations. The total cost of the facility was \$188,515. His question to the school board is where did the \$138,000 come from the pay the bill when it wasn't budgeted. Mr. Cartee stated that it was very clear that no taxpayer funds would be used to pay for the facility. He hasn't been able to get an answer so far and wanted the council to be aware of the issue.

Mayor Monette was concerned about the clearing of ice on the Bay at Gardner Park. He felt it is a safety issue. Mr. Ward will discuss it with Andy.

Mr. Chenette thanked Robert Gosselin on behalf of the American Legion and the rotary Club for donating 125 wreaths that were placed on marked in the cemeteries.

Old Business

Mayor Monette noted he had talked with Representative Higley. It now appears the Reapportionment Board is considering making Newport its own Representative District.

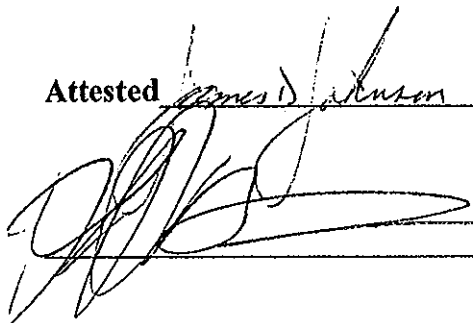
Next Meeting

January 23, 2012

Adjournment

Mr. Baraw moved to adjourn at 8:48 PM. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Attested James D. Wilson This 23rd Day of January, 2012



Mayor