

Council Minutes

March 16, 2015

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, March 16, 2015 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Aldermen Jacques Roberge, Steve Vincent and Neil Morrissette, City Manager John Ward Jr., City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Chief DiSanto, Chief James LeClair, Andy Cappello, Members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mayor Monette welcomed the two new Councilmen Steve Vincent and Jacques Roberge. Mayor Monette also stated that the meeting was being taped for show on NEK-TV.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the minutes of March 2, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

Beth Barnes invited the council to participate in the next Walk to School on Thursday, March 19, 2015 @ 7:30 AM.

Mayor brought back the department liaisons. Mr. Vincent Police Dept., Mr. Roberge Recreation, Mr. Morrissette Public Works, Mr. Wilson Fire Dept. and Planning & Zoning. Mayor Monette suggested that each councilman should set goals for the City.

Election of City Council President

Mr. Roberge moved to nominate/elect Mr. Wilson as Council President. Seconded by Mr. Vincent motion carried.

Appointments

Mr. Vincent moved to postpone all appointments until the next meeting so the council can sit down with the City Manager and each Department Head one on one to tell them what the council expects of them and learn what they expect of the council. Seconded by Mr. Roberge. Discussion: Mr. Wilson saw no reason to postpone the appointments it had been done the same way for 15 years. Motion carried, Roberge, Vincent and Morrissette in favor, Wilson opposed.

Set Annual Meeting Schedule for City Council

Mr. Vincent moved that the City Council Meeting would be on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Chamber Banner Request (attached)

Lynne Bertrand was present to make the request. Mr. Morrisette moved to allow North Country Chamber of Commerce to put up signs per the memo dated March 13, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

NCSU Early Childhood Parade Request for May 7, 2015 at 10:00 AM from 371 Main St. to Gardner Park (attached)

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Consider youth Baseball League Request (attached)

Phil Laramie, Eric Cotnoir and Joe Hinton requested approval to sell 4 x 8 banners to put on the youth field fence. Mr. Roberge moved to authorize the youth league to sell 4 x 8 signs. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Laramie stated that the youth league now has about 120 players, 3 baseball teams, 5 T-ball teams and 5 girls' softball teams. They need a second field for the youth program. They would like field 2 because it has dugouts. Mr. Cappello felt that would disrupt the adult league. Mr. Ward stated the City has contacted the elementary school and the high school about building a new field and looked at the possibility of a new field at Prouty Beach. Mr. Roberge felt the kids were more important than the adults. Scott Martin noted that the adult league pays for the use of the fields. They also have two and maybe three tournaments with 30 to 40 teams with player and their families. The adult league starts on May 1st. The men play on Monday and Wednesday, the women play on Tuesday and Thursday. Mr. Laramie stated the youth league girls play Monday, Tuesday and Friday the boys play Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The three leagues will meet with Mr. Roberge here on Thursday the 19th at 6:30 PM to work out an agreement.

Mr. Laramie noted that the Backstop Building is in bad shape. The league would like to replace it with a 20 ft. steel storage container. The youth league is willing to fund the container. Mr. Cappello stated the building is unsafe but he's worried about the looks of it. Mr. Laramie stated they would paint it to match the other buildings also its portable and can be removed at any time.

Mr. Laramie stated the Gary Rowe Field needs a new scoreboard. He will get sponsors to purchase the scoreboard. Mr. Roberge moved to allow the Cal Ripken Youth League to put up a new scoreboard on the Gary Rowe Field. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution to Change Name of the Newport State Airport to the Northeast Kingdom Airport (attached)

Trish Sears was present to make the request. Mr. Vincent moved to rename the Newport State Airport, the Northeast Kingdom International Airport. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried. Mr. Roberge abstained.

Farmer's Market & Pomerleau Park Shrubbery Project

Mary Pat Goulding and Polly Greenleaf were present from the Watershed Association. Polly Greenleaf gave a presentation on the associations proposed gardens at Pomerleau Park, the Chamber Booth and the Farmer's Market Area. The council heard comments both pro and con on the proposed project. The Watershed Association was seeking approval from the council so they could apply for funding. Mr. Morrisette moved to allow Rain Gardens 1 & 2 at the Chamber Booth with final approval of the council after final designs have been presented. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Membership in Memphremagog Watershed Association

Mr. Morrisette moved to join Memphremagog Watershed Association as a member. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Budget Status Report

None

City Manager Search Process

Mayor Monette presented council members a packet from VLCT who will conduct the search for around \$2,000. Mr. Vincent favors hiring local if possible. All inquiries will be sent to the Mayor. The position will be advertised in the 3 local papers before using VLCT for the search.

New Business

The council signed 2015 Liquor Licenses

Mr. Vincent suggested an office for the Mayor and Councilmen. There is a vacant office where Community Justice once was.

United Christian Academy requested permission to hang 4 banners advertising their Open house on March 27, 2015 (attached). Mr. Morrisette moved to approve the banner request for UCA. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge asked Mr. Ward to look into the proposed cuts to the state pilot program to see if they will affect the City.

Old Business

Mr. Roberge questioned the proposed renovations to the municipal building. He is concerned about spending \$750,000 on the municipal building. He asked what phase 1 was and what it would cost. Mr. Ward stated phase 1 for the Police Dept., new holding cells w/bathrooms, new entrance, and hallway etc. The cost hopefully will be less than \$200,000 paid for with funds left over from the Long Bridge Project. Phase 2 is a new Vault, remodeling the Clerk's office and adding a stall to the garage. Mr. Vincent was in favor of doing the bare minimum to this building and would rather put the money into a new building.

Mayor Monette noted a meeting one week from today at the Gateway to discuss the closing of State Police dispatch in Derby.

Next Meeting Date

Monday, April 6, 2015

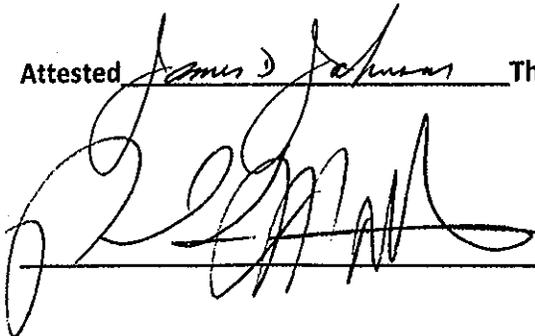
Executive Session-Village of Derby Center Legal Issues

Mr. Roberge moved to enter executive session for a legal issue. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously. No action taken.

Adjournment

Mr. Morrisette moved to adjourn at 9:50 PM. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Attested James D. Johnson This 25th of March 2015



Mayor