

Council Minutes

April 6, 2015

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, April 6, 2015 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Aldermen Jack Roberge, Steve Vincent and Neil Morrissette, City Manager John Ward Jr., City clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Tom Bernier, Seth DiSanto, Andy Cappello, Jamie LeClair, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Roberge moved to approve the minutes of March 25, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by Members of the Public

None

Mayor Monette presented Mr. Chenette with a plaque for his years of service to the City.

Appointments

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint John Ward Jr., City Manager until June 30, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint John Ward Jr., Delinquent Tax Collector. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to postpone the appointment of the Director of Public works until after executive session. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried. Roberge, Vincent, Morrissette in favor Wilson against.

Mr. Vincent moved to appoint Seth DiSanto, Chief of Police. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint James LeClair, Chief of Fire Department. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson moved to appoint Spencer Potter, Assessor. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint Andy Cappello, Recreation Director. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint William Davies, City Attorney, Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrisette moved to appoint John Harlamert to the DRB for 3 years and appoint Jay Gonyaw as an alternate for 3 years. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vincent moved to appoint James LeClair, Health Officer. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrisette moved to appoint Woodman Page and Clark Curtis to the Planning Commission for 3 years. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint Norbert Blais, Harbor Master. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint James Johnson, David Myers and Norbert Blais to the Harbor Commission. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint Jennifer Smith, Aaron Larson, Michelle Lapierre, Aaron Carr, Kristi Farrar, Marin Gardyne and Heidi Santaw to the Recreation Committee. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint Mayor Paul Monette to the NVDA Board and appoint John Ward Jr., to the NVDA Board until June 30, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrisette moved to appoint Frank Ormsbee, John Ward Sr., and Denis Chenette to the Cemetery Commission. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to appoint Donald Hendrich, Richard Baraw and Denis Chenette, Fence Viewers. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vincent moved to appoint Royce Lancaster, Animal Control Officer. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vincent moved to appoint Robert Gosselin, Tree Warden. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vincent moved to appoint Richard Baraw, Weigher of Coal. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vincent moved to appoint Richard Baraw, Surveyor of Wood/Inspector of Shingles. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrisette moved to appoint Helena Hicks, Town Service Officer. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vincent moved to appoint James LeClair, Building Safety Officer. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

AARP- Kelly Stoddard Poor (attached)

Kelly Stoddard Poor, Joanne Bennett and Craig Marshallton gave a report on the survey conducted for the Age Friendly community Initiative.

Newport Cider house Bar & Grill Request for Sidewalk Café (attached)

Eden Ice Cider would like to use one parking space in front of their business for a sidewalk café from June 15 thru Sept. 15. Eden Ice will work on a specific design and the City Attorney will draw up a legal agreement which address liability insurance.

Bike Path Signage (attached)

Beth Barnes requested signage and road stencils to define the direction of the bike path at Landing St. and Park Ave. Mr. Vincent moved to move forward on the request. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Community Justice Center Communication

Barbara Morrow updated the council on the prescription drug collection.

Gardner Park Environmental Site Assessment Update

Mr. Cappello updated the council on the status of the Phase II environmental assessment. Mr. Morrissette moved to authorize the Phase II Assessment by Ross Environmental in the amount of \$14,977. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of RFP on Gardner Park Renovation.

Mr. Cappello stated that he would like to award the job by the end of May. VCDP would also like the City to submit an application for an implementation Grant by August first the grant would be for \$300,000. Mr. Vincent moved to approve the RFP for Gardner Park Renovation. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Authorize Execution of Loan Repayment for DWSRF Loan RF3-095-01

Mr. Vincent moved to authorize the City Manager to sign the loan documents. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Vermont Electric Cooperative Street Light billing

Mr. Roberge moved to table the item. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Certification of Compliance for City Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory

The council signed the document.

Certification that Funds Raised by Municipal Taxes are Greater than \$300.00 Per Mile for Each Mile of Class 1, 2, and 3 town highways in the Municipality

The council signed the document.

Execute no appeals Pending Certificate

The council signed the document.

Authorize City Manager to Execute Closeout Agreement (CL-2009-Newport City-00003) between the State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the city of Newport.

Mr. Roberge moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the closeout agreement. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried.

Discussion on E-mail Retention and Addresses for the City Council

The City will set up E-mail addresses for the council thru KEVCO.

New Business

The council signed 2015 liquor licenses.

Mr. Roberge stated he had talked to Chris Johansen. He would like a written contract for his boat slip.

Chief DiSanto asked permission to temporarily close the entrance to the municipal lot from Main St. to see how it effects traffic. Chief DiSanto is concerned about pedestrian safety. With Field Ave., Second St., Main St. and the entrance it is a five way intersection. The council suggested making it a right turn only coming out of the municipal lot.

Old Business

Mr. Roberge met with the Little League and Softball Leagues and the scheduling has been taken care of.

Mr. Ward noted that Phil Laramie had requested poles on field 2 for lights.

Mayor Monette noted that he had placed the ad for City Manager in the local papers with VLCT and other publications.

Mr. Chenette asked if the council still wanted himself Mr. Morrissette and Mr. Guyette to still meet on the Facilities Policy. The council still wants them to meet. Mr. Morrissette stated it should be done in a couple of weeks.

Next Meeting Date

April 20, 2015

Executive Session – Personnel Issue

Mr. Roberge moved to enter executive session for personnel issue. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

In open session Mr. Vincent moved to appoint Tom Bernier as the Public Works Director. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to compensate the Public works Director an additional \$3,500 per year in lieu of using a public works truck for personal use. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried. Voting in favor: Roberge, Morrissette and Wilson. Voting against: Vincent and Monette.

Adjournment

Mr. Roberge moved to adjourn at 10:03 PM. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Attested James Johnson This 20th Day of April 2015

Paul E. Moore Mayor