

Council Minutes

May 2, 2016

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, May 2, 2016 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building immediately following an Informational Hearing on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Neil Morrissette, Aldermen John Wilson, Jacques Roberge and Steve Vincent, City Manager Laura F. Dolgin, City Clerk/treasurer James D. Johnson, Tom Bernier, Jamie LeClair, Paul Luciano, Frank Knoll, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 7:56 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

Mayor Monette read a statement regarding the Main St. Development Project and the City Web-Site.

Comments on the Campground.

Discussion of public meeting on the Main St. development.

Local Emergency Operations Plan

Mr. Roberge moved to adopt the Local Emergency Operations Plan. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Water Committee Presentation and Rate Recommendation (attached)

Frank Knoll presented the proposed plan for City water charges. The system would use an Equivalent unit structure. Every user would pay for fixed cost of the system and usage based on the amount of water used. Each equivalent unit is based on 13,500 gallons per quarter or 150 gallons per day. The proposal also includes a 6% increase in the water rates.

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the proposed water rate structure. Seconded by Mr. Vincent.

Discussion: Mr. Wilson wanted to be sure there would not be another 6% increase since the City Manager had also requested an increase. Ms. Dolgin there would not be, her request is included in the proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

Newport Jazz Festival Update (attached)

Cynthia More and Gene McCormick update the council on the Jazz Festival scheduled for July 9 - 11.

Red Barn Update (attached)

Frank Knoll update the council on the status of the old red barn. Mr. Knoll would like to save the barn and move it to another location. Mr. Knoll had three years to come up with a plan now he would like a two-year extension. Mr. Roberge moved to grant a six-month extension. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette. Mr. Wilson wanted to be sure the City would have no cost involved in moving the barn. Motion carried unanimously.

Request from Relay for Life to Waive Noise Ordinance (attached)

Mr. Vincent moved to waive the noise ordinance for Relay for Life on June 25th. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Annual Soap Box Derby Request (attached)

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the request from Newport Soap Box Derby for June 19th. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Sign voter Approved UCA Documents to Release the Restrictive Covenant (attached)

The council signed the Quit Claim Deed for United Christian Academy.

New Business

The council signed a liquor license for Eden Ice Cider.

Mr. Wilson noted that on the insert in the Utility billing still had John Ward as city Manager. Mr. Wilson also complained that the Recycling Center changes what they will accept quite often he would like an accurate list of what item will be accepted so there is some kind of consistency.

Mayor Monette stated the Zoning Administrator had stated that Cherry Lane has two cul-de-sacs' and that for 911 purposes one should have its own name. Mr. Spates suggested naming it Cherry Lane

Extension. Mr. Vincent moved to name the new street Cherry Lane Extension. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dolgin noted the Centennial Celebration Meeting Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

The council discussed RFP's from the Eastside Restaurant and Newport Natural Foods. The City Manager, Mayor and Recreation Director recommended Newport Natural foods. Mr. Wilson did not agree with the process. Mr. Vincent moved to lease the Gateway to Steve Breault (Newport Natural Foods) for one year beginning June 1, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried. Roberge, Vincent, Morrissette voting in favor, Mr. Wilson abstained.

Old Business

Mr. Roberge noted 20-25 people working on the Baseball Field at Gardner Park Saturday. He wished the council had been told about it. He would have volunteered. It shows people want to keep the ball field.

Mr. Morrissette noted the work being done at Memphremagog Heights.

Mayor Monette noted the Planning Commission is working on an Animal Ordinance.

Next Meeting date

May 16, 2016

Executive Session- Personnel

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

After executive session Mr. Vincent moved to reopen job applications for Prouty Beach Host. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Vincent moved to adjourn at 9:46 PM. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Attested: James D. Johnson This 16th Day of May, 2016

[Signature]
Mayor