

Council Minutes

May 4, 2015

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, May 4, 2015 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monett, Council President John Wilson, Aldermen Jack Ruberg, Steve Vincent and Neil Morrissette, City Manager John Ward Jr., City Clerk James D. Johnson, Chief DiSanto, Chief LeClair, members of the Press and Public.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of April 20, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by Members of the Public

Mr. McNeal noted that since Mr. Vincent had mentioned the idea of building a new Municipal Building he felt the council should consider grants to renovate the old County Jail.

Consider Pavement Bids (attached)

Mr. Roberge moved to award the bid to Gray's Paving per Mr. Bernier's recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Newport City Renaissance Corporation Gateway Center Request (attached)

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the request for use of the Gateway Center and the city's 20x30 tent for the Taste of Newport on July 22, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Newport Community Bike Share Plan (previously tabled) (attached)

Mr. Morrissette moved to table until a complete plan is presented. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Kingdom Games Request for Assistance with Winter Games and Skating Oval (attached)

Phil White was present and gave an overview of the 2015 Winter Games. He requested assistance for the 2016 Winter Games. The council noted that if the Recreation Dept. assisted Mr. White Mr. Cappello's stipulation would be followed. Mr. Morrissette suggested that any work done by the City should be in writing.

Request for Block Party at Prospect St on June 12, 2015 (attached)

Mr. McMaster was present to request the closing of Prospect St. between Second St. and Third St. for a block party on June 12, 2015 from 2 PM until 7 PM. Mr. Vincent moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Assessing the Fairness of Water Use and Cost in Newport

Doug Spates gave a presentation on metering water usage and the cost there of. Mr. Spates presented graphs showing the difference between metered and non-metered water users. Mr. Spates felt that non-metered users are using more water and paying less than metered users. Mr. Spates suggested appointing a committee to come up with a fair and equitable solution for all users. Mr. Roberge moved to approve the appointment of a committee. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Recovery Community Center Request (attached)

Julie Raboin and Brandon Malshuk updated the council on their efforts to open a Recovery Center in Newport. They stated there are 11 centers in Vermont and Newport would be number 12. The centers are support networks for recovering substance abusers. There would be no medication or counseling given at the center.

Consider Vermont Electric Cooperative Street Light Billing. (Attached)

Mr. Ward stated that there had been some billing mistakes by Vermont Electric. They went back 7 years and discovered \$35,956.50 in errors. \$35,956.50 will be credited to our street light account.

Consider Tennis Wall Request (attached)

A memo from Dr. Paul Bosco stated that the Newport Rotary Club had agreed to construct a backboard at the tennis courts. Frank Knoll Rotary Club President stated that as far as he knew the club had not approved the project. This is not a replacement for the Gary Atchinson Memorial Tennis Wall previously approved by the City council. Mr. Roberge move to table the request until the next meeting council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Easement Deed to John and Loray cote (attached)

A small corner of their building on Western Ave. is on City property. Mr. Vincent moved to approve the Easement Deed for John & Loray cote for the property on Western Ave. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Bids for Municipal Building Renovations (attached)

Mr. Vincent moved to accept the Spates Construction bid not to exceed \$249,500. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrisette moved to approve the overall cost of renovations to the Municipal Building not to exceed \$291,537. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Policy for Rental of City Property

Mr. Roberge moved to table until next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mayor Monette stated that he had received 8 resumes for the City Manager position.

Mr. Ward stated he had received a bid in the amount of \$11,960 for repairs to the Fire Station (attached). Mr. Vincent moved to accept the bid from MC Construction for repairs to the Fire Station. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Wilson asked about a response from Fred's bout a credit for ignitor's for the Municipal Building boilers. Mr. Ward stated we would get a credit of \$104.

Mr. Roberge noted the ground breaking ceremony for the BIO-TECH May 14th at 11:00 AM.

Mayor Monette stated that council members should have a City E-mail address for city business. They should not do City business on their private E-mail accounts.

Mr. Wilson asked when the council was going to act on Mr. Baraw's request for a sign at the entrance to the Industrial Park in memory of Mel Carter. Mr. Baraw stated that the Hospital Trustees have approved the sign.

Mr. Vincent noted the report on the Grandstand. Council members needed time to look at the report.

Chief DiSanto asked the status of putting up signs for the no left turn leaving the municipal parking lot.

Next Meeting Date

May 18, 2015

Executive Session – Liquor License

Mr. Morrissette moved to enter executive session for a liquor license application. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Vincent moved not to approve the liquor license as presented for Arivon LLC doing business as Newport Car Wash. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Executive session – Compensation review Non-Union Personnel

Mr. Vincent moved to enter executive session for Non-union personnel compensation. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the non-union personnel compensation as presented and a \$190/month travel allowance for the City Clerk/Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried. Roberge, Vincent Morrissette in favor, Mr. Wilson against travel pay for the Clerk/Treasurer.

Executive Session – City Manager Resumes

Mr. Roberge moved to enter executive session for review of City Manager resumes. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

No action taken.

Adjournment

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

Attested *James Johnson*

This *15th* Day of May, 2015

[Handwritten Signature]

Mayor