

## **Council Minutes**

**May 18, 2015**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, May 18, 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, members of the Press and Public.

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Roberge moved to approve the minutes of May 4, 2015 with corrections. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

### **Comments by the Public**

Mr. Brian McNeal noted that there are many houses for sale in Newport due to the high cost of living.

Mr. Chenette noted that the War Memorial needed repair. Mr. Ward stated that the repairs had been done. Mr. Chenette also questioned travel pay for the Clerk/Treasurer. Alderman Vincent stated that the council felt that the clerk should get travel pay since he was the only one in management that didn't get it and it had been going on for many years.

Mr. Robert Masson provided the council with info about using RAP in the asphalt mix verses virgin asphalt. (attached)

Mr. Baraw stated that he had seen a city police cruiser parked at the Elk's Club in Derby. Mr. Ward stated it was taking part in the Clicket or ticket project.

### **Consider Mel Carter Industrial Park Sign**

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the 4ft x 6ft plastic sign in blue and white. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

### **Newport American Legion Post 21 Memorial Day Program Request**

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the Post 21 request. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

### **Proposed Policy by Ad Hoc Committee on City Owned Property**

The council reviewed the proposed policy and found several things it would like changed. Mr. Vincent moved to table the policy until corrections are made. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

### **Determine Membership on Proposed Water committee**

The council appointed Neil Morrissette, Angie Booth, Jennifer Hopkins, Frank Knoll, Pedro Grondin, Tom Bernier and Richard Baraw to the Water committee.

### **Consider MOU Between City of Newport and North Country Union High School for the School Resource Officer.**

Mr. Wilson noted that the agreement didn't read right it looks like the pages were copied out of order and if it were him he wouldn't sign it until it was corrected. Mr. Rivard the High school Principle stated he had with him a correct copy that could be signed. Mr. Rivard stated that the program is working very well the student connect very well with Officer Lancaster. The funding will be the same as last year. Mr. Vincent moved to authorize the MOU. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

### **Consider MOU between NVDA and the City of Newport for Services Related to Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

Mr. Wilson found several mistakes where the Town was named instead of the City. Mr. Vincent moved to grant the City manager permission to have NVDA help with the Hazard Mitigation Grant with corrections to the MOU. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

Mr. Johnson presented a request for Niles funds. Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the Niles Fund request. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson noted repairs that are needed to West Main St. and also the sidewalk on West Main St.

Mayor Monette noted that in the Local Emergency Operations Plan Bob Midi is no longer the Principal at the City Elementary School and Richard O'Hara is no longer the Head Master at United Christian Academy.

There were no questions on the current budget status. Mr. Ward stated that he was moving forward on the LED light replacements

Mr. McNeal felt the slower traffic keep right sign on Western Ave. should be removed since the speed limit in both lanes is 25 mph.

**Old Business**

Mr. Wilson noted that the city will have to do something about the Recycling Yard. There is not enough room for vehicles to maneuver at the site. Mr. Ward stated he may recommend removing the compactor and purchasing new bins. This would free up space.

Mayor Monette stated that he was still trying to coordinate a meeting between US Customs and the Canadian Customs to reach some kind of agreement on vessel travel on Lake Memphremagog.

**Next Meeting Date**

June 1, 2015

**Executive Session – Liquor License Application**

No action.

**Executive Session - City Manger Search**

No action.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Roberge moved to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Attested *James D. Johnson* This 1<sup>st</sup> Day of June 2015  
*[Signature]* Mayor