

Council Minutes

June 2, 2014

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, June 2, 2014 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Aldermen Richard Baraw, Denis Chenette, and Neil Morrisette, City Manager John Ward Jr., City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Andy Cappello, Chief DiSanto, Chief LeClair, Phil White, Micheline Auger, Peter Jacobson, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of May 19, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Public

Mayor Monette presented Micheline Auger with a Community Service Award for her dedication to keeping downtown Newport clean and beautiful.

Request for Exception of Noise Ordinance by Northeast Kingdom Relay for Life (attached)

Mr. Morrisette moved to approve the request from 5 PM on June 28th until 7 AM on June 29th. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Request to Close Main St. from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM on Friday Evening, July 11th for Kingdom Swim/Aqua Fest Events (attached)

Mr. Baraw moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Request to Allow Parking on Both Sides of Seconded St. on July 3rd from 11AM until 2pm to Accommodate Celebration of NEKHC at the Meeting Place on 100 Second Street (attached)

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

Request for City to help Sponsor Taste of Newport Event on July 30, 2014 by Use of the Gateway Center on July 30, 2014(attached)

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Request for Free Use of Prouty Beach for NCUHS Natural Resources Event on June 14, 2014 from 5pm until 7pm (attached)

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Needle Exchange Program Request

Mr. Peter Jacobson, Executive Director of Vermont Cares was present to further discuss the proposed Needle Exchange Program. Mr. Morrisette moved to let Vermont Cares operate a needle exchange program in Newport City. Seconded by Mr. Baraw. Morrisette and Baraw voted yes, Wilson and Chenette voted no. Mayor Monette voted no, the motion failed.

Request Permission to apply for COPS Hiring Program

Chief DiSanto was once again present to request permission to apply for COPS Hiring Program. This would allow the City to hiring a new officer for four years. The first three years would be funded at 75% by the federal government, the City would bear the full cost in year four. Mr. Baraw moved to authorize permission to apply for the COPS Hiring Program. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, Baraw and Morrisette voted yes. Wilson and Chenette voted no, Mayor Monette voted no, motion failed.

Consider Personnel Policies and Practices Manual Update

Mr. Morrisette moved to approve the updated Personnel Policies and Practices Manual. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Wilson moved to approve a Vendor's Permit for Perkins Concessions. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson thanked the Rec Dept. for getting the Veterans Memorial Cleaned and putting the flag at half-staff for Memorial Day.

Mr. Baraw noted that changes have been made to the open meeting law and would like the City Attorney present to explain the changes.

Mayor Monette asked about the recycling mandates. Mr. Ward felt that most if not all of the burden would be on private trash haulers.

Mr. Chenette noted that the councils copy the School Board Minutes was missing page 5.

Mr. Morrisette asked how long the traffic light on the causeway would be flashing. Mr. Ward will find out.

Mr. Johnson noted a washout on the Derby Road near Mr. O's Sporting Goods.

Mr. Ward noted that Felines and Friends Foundation would like free use of the Gateway on July 5th (attached). Mr. Baraw moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ward presented a quote from Dave Laws for an engineering study of the Gardner Park Grandstand. Mr. Baraw moved to authorize spending up to \$11,000 for engineering study of the grandstand. Seconded By Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Wilson asked about the Long Bridge sign. Mr. Ward stated the sign was in process. Mr. Wilson stated that the police escort for Cruzin for Cancer didn't happen. Looks like someone dropped the ball. He felt that when people ask for escorts they should be responsible for calling the police dept. to confirm.

Mr. Chenette asked the status of restrooms at Gardner Park for ball players. Mr. Morrisette stated that everything had been fixed.

Next Meeting Date

June 16, 2014 at 7:00 PM

Executive Session – Proposed Pay Increases for Non-Union Staff

In open session Mr. Baraw moved to approve a 3% increase for non-union staff. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session -- Personnel Issue

Mr. Chenette moved to enter executive session for a personnel issue. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

No action.

Executive Session- Legal Issue with Village of Derby

Mr. Chenette moved to enter executive session for a legal issue with the Village of Derby. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

No action.

Adjournment

Mr. Morrisette moved to adjourn at 10:16 PM. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Attested

This

16th

Day of June, 2014

Mayor