

## **Council Meeting**

**June 5, 2017**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, June 5, 2017 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Council Members Julie Raboin, James Merriam and Denis Chenette, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Jessica Booth, Jamie LeClair, Seth DiSanto, Tom Bernier, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of May 15, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

### **Comments by the Public**

Susan Watson stated she would like to do something with the old Newberry's building. She has e-mailed owner Rick Bove but has not heard from him.

Colleen Ortiz made a statement in support of Fresh Start Community Farms.

A visitor from Birmingham, AL. stated the mayor wanted her to say Hi and invited everyone to Birmingham for the World Games in 2021.

### **Wednesday's on the Waterfront, Andrea Carbine, Vero Rancourt, Jessica Booth (attached)**

Mr. Wilson moved to support Wednesday's on the Waterfront by donating \$1,000 from council special projects and authorizing the Recreation dept. to use funds budgeted for the Jazz Concert to fix the Band Wagon. Seconded by Mr. Merriam, motion carried unanimously.

### **Waterfront Bench Donation, Jessica Booth (attached)**

Cindy Sanville requested permission to place a bench in memory of Rick Hamblett at the City Dock. Mr. Wilson moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Merriam, motion carried unanimously.

**Gateway Painting Bid Recommendation, Jessica Booth (attached)**

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the bid from Vermont Painting Co. in the amount of \$11,600. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation by Casella**

Joe Gay gave a presentation on Casella's planned expansion on the Airport Road.

**NCRC 2016 Reinvestment Statistics and Renewal of Newport's Designated Downtown (attached)**

Karen Geraghty from NCRC gave a presentation on NCRC's statistics. The Newport City Renaissance Board of Directors also presented its request that the City of Newport authorize the renewal application for the City's downtown designation status. Mr. Merriam moved to proceed with the renewal of the City's designated downtown status with every means at its disposal. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

**Website Recommendation, John Guilfoil (attached)**

The council held a conference call with John Guilfoil to discuss the possibility of contracting with John Guilfoil Public Relations LLC, for the cities website. Ms. Dolgin pointed out that now in her view it is critical that the City hire a professional firm to get info out about what is happening in the city. The initial cost would be \$21,988 for the first year and \$1,299 per month thereafter. The council will decide at a future council meeting.

**Farrant St. Pump Station Engineering Contract, Tom Bernier (attached)**

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the contract with Aldrich and Elliott in the amount of \$12,500. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

**Vermont Land Trust Letter of Support for Grant Application (attached)**

Mr. Merriam moved to send a letter of support to Vermont Land Trust for Recreation Trails at Bluff Side Farm. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, Mr. Merriam and Ms. Raboin in favor, Mr. Chenette and Mr. Wilson opposed. Mayor Monette voted in favor. Motion carried.

**New Business**

None

**Old Business**

Mr. Johnson thanked the city departments for their help with the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Mayor stated the Vermont Council of Rural Development thanked the City for hosting the VCRD Community Visit on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The VCRD Board of Directors, would like to offer a Community visit Process to the City kicking off with a Steering Committee in early October 2017.

Mr. Chenette thanked Public Works for fixing the culvert on Severans Dr.

**Next Meeting Dates**

Council meeting June 19<sup>th</sup>, Centennial meeting June 15th

**Executive Session, Pending Litigation/Contract**

Mr. Merriam moved for the board's specific finding that premature public knowledge of the subjects of the anticipated executive session tonight would clearly place the board and/or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

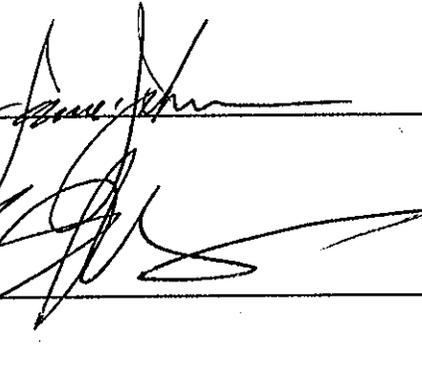
Mr. Merriam moved to enter executive session with counsel, for confidential attorney-client communications concerning contracts and pending litigation. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

No action.

**Adjournment**

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

Attested



This

19<sup>th</sup>

Day of

June

2017

Mayor