Council Minutes

June 6, 2016

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on June 6, 2016 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Neil Morrissett, Aldermen Jacques Robarge, Steve Vincent, John Wilson, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Chief James LeClair, Tom Bernier, Iso Marks, Lynn Flint, Mary Pat Goulding, Jennifer Hopkins, members of the Press and Public.

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

Mayor Monette requested an agenda adjustment for an executive session after old business involving the EB5 program. Mr. Vincent moved to adjust the agenda for an executive session on the EB5 program. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Roberge moved to approve the minutes of May 16, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette.

Discussion: Mayor read a statement stating that he is vetoing the May 16, 2016 action on refunding the cost of meters to those people in the data collection program who have purchased their meters. The Mayor held off on the vote on the minutes until old business.

Comments by the Public

Mayor Monette thanked Mr. Morrissette for standing in for him on Memorial Day.

Main St. Development Fence Proposed Arts Project, Memphremagog Arts Collaborative

Iso Marks and Lynn Flint proposed the idea of weaving fabric into the fence on Main St. the represent either the sun rising or setting. After the sun is done they would weave a tree on each side of the sun using brown fabric for the trees and green for the leaves. Comments could be written on the leaves by the public.

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the project by the Memphremagog Arts Collaborative and QNEK. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Shoreline Projects and Schedule of Summer Upkeep, Memphremagog Watershed Association (attached)

Mary Pat Goulding updated the council on their projects and a schedule of upcoming meetings.

Rural Edge Community Block Party (attached)

The council had questions on the memo and application for the party. There were discrepancies on the time of the event, questions on the closure of the street, no contact had been made with the Police Dept. or the Fire Dept. No certificate of liability insurance accompanied the application. Mr. Vincent moved to approve the request with these contingencies corrected by the close of business on June 7, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Water & Sewer Rate Fee Schedule (attached)

Ms. Dolgin stated that the proposed rate fee schedule also included a 6% increase in the sewer rates. Mr. Vincent moved to approve a 6% increase in the sewer rates. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the new Water & sewer Rates effective with the period beginning August, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

City Council Pay Schedule

Mr. Morrissette suggested paying the council yearly like other towns do. Mr. Wilson explained that the council moved to quarterly payments because at the time some council members were in Florida for two or three months and still collecting pay. It was done to avoid paying for meetings not attended. No action was taken.

New Business

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve a liquor license for Beans by the Border. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to approve an Outside Consumption Permit for Be4ans by the Border. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bernier stated he had received a grant in the amount of $20,000 from Vermont Drinking Water Asset Management for mapping utilities in the City. Mr. Bernier had also received a proposal from CAI Technologies in the amount of $17,600 for developing water system mapping and GIS services for the City. The City would provide $5,000 of in kind services to the project. Mr. Vincent moved to approve the agreement with CAI Technologies. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dolgin noted a meeting of the Vermont Arts Council on June 8, 2016 at 10:00 AM

Old Business

Mr. Roberge moved to override the mayor's veto on reimbursement of the cost of water meters to those in the data collection program who purchased their meters. Seconded by Mr. Vincent. A long discussion followed on the issue. In the end Mr. Roberge, Mr. Vincent and Mr. Morrissette voted in favor of the override. Mr. Wilson voted against the override.

Mr. Vincent asked why no one was on duty at the camp ground to take money for camp on Memorial Day. Ms. Dolgin noted that the council ordered a change in the host which caused a gap in the position. Mr. Roberge stated that if there was no host the camp ground manager should have been on duty.

Ms. Dolgin noted the second meeting of the Centennial Committee tomorrow at 6:00 PM

Ms. Dolgin stated that there had been no communication with Northern Star (Chris Johansen) regarding negotiations and/or signing the MOU for operation at the City Dock. The City has not received a certificate of liability insurance as of today from Chris Johansen. Ms. Dolgin stated she has done everything and is at a loss at this point. Mr. Morrissette moved to have the City Attorney call Mr. Johansen and give him until noon tomorrow June 7, 2016 to respond and if not he must remove the boat. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

The council voted on the motion to approve the minutes of May 16, 2016. Motion carried, Vincent, Roberge, Morrissette and Wilson voted in favor.

Next Meeting Date

June 20, 2016

Executive Session, to discuss EB5 Litigation

Mr. Roberge moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussion of EB5 Litigation. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried.

In open session, Mr. Vincent moved to have the City Attorney file party status in the Vermont civil matter involving Quirious and Stenger as defendants and clarify that our purpose in doing this is not to express a position but to be sure we are copied on all correspondence and filings so that we can be informed of further actions. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

Attested James S Johnson **This** 20th **Day of** June **2016**

_____ **Mayor**