

Council Minutes
June 18, 2012

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City council was held on Monday, June 18, 2012 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Aldermen Richard Baraw, Denis Chenette and Tim Delabruere, City Manager John Ward Jr. City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Coventry Selectmen Brad Maxwell and Michael Marcotte, Andy Cappello, Chief LeClair, Chief Duguet, Reg Shafe, Trish Sears and 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 June 4, 2012 with corrections. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion with Coventry Select Board on fire Department Fees

Mr. Marcotte and Mr. Maxwell were present to discuss the fire department fees for calls to Coventry. They would like to possibly contract with the city for coverage based on a 3 year rolling average. Mr. Chenette moved to discuss with the Coventry Select Board the possibility of contracting with the City of Newport for fire coverage on a 3 year rolling average. Seconded by Mr. Delabruere, motion carried unanimously.

Sign Issue Complaint (Piece of the Past)

Mr. Brochu (Piece of the Past) felt he had been singled out during Mr. Wilson complaint about illegal signs in the city because Mr. Wilson had mentioned the buying gold sign near the Family Dollar store. Mr. Wilson stated he was not signaling anyone out he was simply noting signs and there locations so that Mr. Ward could check to see if they had permits and if not have them removed.

Request to Close Second St. for Block Party on July 14th from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM (attached)

Mr. Rodriquez was present to discuss his request with the council. Mayor Monette was concerned about closing a street for one business he felt it may open the council up to other requests. Mr. Delabruere noted that the request was right after Aqua-fest and

suggested that Mr. Rodriguez work with the Recreation Dept. to incorporate his request into Aqua-fest. Mr. Chenette moved to have Mr. Rodriguez work with Mr. Cappello to incorporate his open house into Aqua-fest. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Funding Request for IROC Youth Initiative (previously tabled)

Mayor Monette noted he had asked for info about the number of kids from Newport that use IROC and has not received it yet. Mr. Delabruere felt the city should not donate \$5,000 but instead put it in a fund and set up a scholarship fund to pay for kids to go to IROC. Mayor Monette noted that the Rec Dept. can supply everything to Newport Kids except swimming in the winter time. Mr. Delabruere noted that it would be \$5,000 for the rest of this year and \$18,000 next year that's a lot of money. Mr. Wilson noted that he read in the paper IROC's plan for staying solvent included asking each town for an appropriation that in Newport's case would be \$32,000 that's not equality just because we're a larger town we will pay \$7.00 per person when other towns would only pay four or five dollars per person. Mr. Wilson also noted that you have to consider kids whose parents work at the hospital and other places that are free anyway. Mr. Delabruere moved to direct that the money left in the Council Special Projects Fund be transferred to the Recreation Trust fund for applicants the Rec. Scholarship program for IROC. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. White requested that the invoice of \$1,419.20 for Gateway rental, tent rental and Prouty Beach rental be waived for the Kingdom Swim. Mr. Cappello stated that the Rec. Dept. likes doing the event but doesn't want the city to be taken advantage of. He stated that this invoice doesn't come anywhere near what it costs the City to help put on this event. The invoice has a 20% discount which is normal for any organization that has rented the facilities 5 or more times. The council took on action the invoice will stand as presented.

Consider Request for World Breastfeeding Banner at Railroad Square during World Breastfeeding Week, August 1-7, 2012

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

Consider Appointment of Police Chief

Mr. Baraw moved to appoint Seth DeSanto Chief of Police effective August 1, 2012. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval for Sidewalk Reconstruction on Pleasant St. and Third St. as Part of STP 2704(1) (\$254,340)

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

Approve and Execute Grant Resolution Agreement for Northeast Kingdom Tasting Center 07110-PG-2011-NewportCity-00016 (\$30,000)

Mr. Baraw moved to approve and execute the Grant Resolution agreement. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Authorize City Manager to sign VCDP Grant Agreement Between State of Vermont and City of Newport (Tasting Center)

Mr. Chenette moved to authorize the City Manager to sign the grant agreement. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on Right to Know Law (Open Meeting Law)

Mr. Ward stated he hadn't received the response from the City Attorney. Mr. Chenette moved to table until next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Niles Fund Requests

Mr. Chenette moved to table the discussion on the Niles fund request. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Baraw received a complaint about workers on the Long Bridge parking and blocking traffic by the Glen Road.

Mr. Delabruere noted another accident involving a tree on Coventry St. He suggested removing the tree or installing guard rails. Mr. Ward will check into what can be done.

Mr. Chenette noted that the stop bars on the Causeway are too close to the traffic lights and trucks are continually running over the island. He asked if the stop bars and the island could be relocated when the state does the paving project.

Mr. Chenette asked if the City would qualify for the extra 5% reduction on the Cities share for the Long Bridge Project. Mr. Ward didn't know at this time.

Trish Sears asked who funded the flowers on Main St. Mr. Ward stated that Penny Thomas had done those with donated funds.

Trish asked when the paving on Main St. would begin. Mr. Ward stated he still didn't know and was still waiting for the preconstruction meeting.

Mayor Monette asked about the Bike Racks. Trish stated they are on order and are expected June 21st. Mr. Ward stated they are prepared to install them when they arrive.

Old Business

Mr. Wilson thanked the city crew for getting the drainage fixed on Cross and Orchard Streets.

Mr. Wilson said thanks for making the City look a little better without all the illegal signs.

Mr. Wilson asked the status of the Village of Derby Water negotiations. Mr. Ward stated that our attorney had forwarded their attorney the agreement.

Mr. Wilson asked if the meeting with the people from Coaticook was still happening. Trish Sears stated that it had been cancelled.

Mr. Baraw stated the cement boxes on the causeway look good. Mr. Ward stated the city had provided the boxes and flowers had been put in with donations.

Mr. Baraw thanked the city crew for fixing the pot hole on winter St.

Mayor Monette thanked the Rec. Dept. for cutting the grass on the Causeway.

Mayor Monette asked about the cameras at Gardner Park. Chief Duquette noted they had been requested to be moved to the skating rink building because of a vandalism problem in that area.

Mayor Monette asked if we are all set with the TIF payment. Mr. Ward stated ~~that~~ we are set to make the payment but if the state forgives other towns we will ask for the money back.

Next Meeting Date

July 2, 2012

Adjournment

Mr. Delabruere moved to adjourn at 9:15 PM. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Attested James S. Musar This 2nd Day of July, 2012

[Signature]
Mayor