

Council Minutes

July 6, 2015

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City council was held on Monday, July 6, 2015 in the Council Room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Aldermen Jack Roberge, Neil Morrissette and Steve Vincent, 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. Morrissette moved to approve the minutes of June 15, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried.

Mr. Roberge moved to approve the minutes of June 29, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried.

Mr. Roberge moved to approve the minutes of July 1, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried.

Comments by Members of the Public

Diana Henry thanked Mr. Ward for his years of service and gave him a plate of Brownie's. She also left papers on DIY Urbanism Makes Creative use of Public Spaces for the council.

Colleen Ortiz mentioned the walk to school program and that the school safety zone is now 2,000 feet from the driveway entrance. She also asked how to get a stop sign at the corner of Third St. and Prospect St coming down the hill. Mr. Ward said stop in the office and he will look at the request.

Main Street Trees – Jeff Fellingner

Mr. Fellingner is concerned about the trees on Main St. and asked about the process of choosing and replacing trees.

Consider Proposal from Kingdom Games for city Services to support winter Activities (attached)

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement with Kingdom Games for city services to support winter activities. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on city Involvement in Rain Gardens

Mr. Roberge stated he had seen Recreation Department personnel working on the Rain Gardens. Mr. Roberge stated that the agreement with the watershed group was the City approved the gardens and use of the property but all work would be done by volunteers. Mr. Roberge also noted that all the grass along the river banks is supposed to be kept at 8 inches but is not and doesn't look very good.

Consider Lease Agreement with State of Vermont Fish & Wildlife (attached)

Mr. Gerardi stated that the state would like to make improvements to the access on the South Bay but they need a 20 year lease with the City in order to do so. The last lease agreement expired 20 years ago. A 20 year agreement would have to be voted on by the voters of the city which will probably be at the next town Meeting in March 2016, however the City will sign a 1 year lease which the council can do without voter approval. Mr. Roberge moved to approve the lease agreement with corrections and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement when corrected. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Consider sign Request for Old Stone house Events (attached)

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the request from July 6, 2015 to September 28, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Wilson noted that July 17 should be July 27.

Consider Main Street tree Replacement Recommendation (attached)

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the recommendation from the Public works Director dated June 12, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Access Permit #15-0014 for Wal-Mart Entrance (attached)

Mr. Vincent moved to approve City permit #15-001 for the Wal-Mart entrance. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Roberge moved to approve the request by Eden Ice Cider for use of three feet of sidewalk for an outdoor café. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vincent moved to approve an Outside Consumption Permit for Eden Ice Cider. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve an Outside consumption Permit for the American Legion on August 1, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roberge moved to approve an Art Gallery or Bookstore Permit, Malt and/or Vinous Serving Permit for Memphremagog Arts Collaborative. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vincent moved to approve a Line of Credit with Passumpsic Bank for one million dollars for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve a new loan from Passumpsic Bank for a new Police Cruiser in the amount of \$25,256. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Ward and Public works for fixing the entrance to Gardner Park and The road for the Soap Box derby.

Mr. Roberge stated he had observed the city mowing grass on private property across from Cumberland Farms. He wondered why we are mowing there but don't have time to mow the grass at the Fire Dept.

Mayor Monette asked about the Solid Waste Plan. It will need two public hearings before it is approved. Mr. Ward will schedule the first one for July 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Old Business

Mr. Wilson noted that Mr. Johansen had a contract with the City for the Northern Star but has not paid last year's fees yet. Someone should call him about paying ASAP.

Mr. Wilson noted a lot of large pot holes on West Main St. Public works needs to fix them.

Mr. Wilson asked if Mr. Bernier would be signing the permit for Wal-Mart before he goes on vacation. Mr. Ward said he would.

Mr. Roberge thanked Mr. Ward for his years of service to the city.

Next Meeting Date

July 20, 2015

Executive Session – Liquor License Issue

Mr. Vincent moved to enter executive session. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette

No action.

Adjournment

Mr. Morrissette moved to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Attested James Johnson This 20th day of July 2015

[Signature] Mayor