

Council Minutes
August 1, 2011

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, August 1, 2011 immediately following a public hearing. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Aldermen Richard Baraw and Denis Chenette, City Manager John Ward Jr., City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Frank Knoll, Trish Sears, John Hall. Alderman Tim Delabruere was absent.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of July 25, 2011. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Consider any Action on Public Hearing to Extend Designated Area to Include Gardner Park

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the request to extend the designated downtown area to include Gardner Park. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

Request for Tree Removal at Gardner Park (attached)

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the request for the removal of three trees at the corner of T P Lane and Western Ave. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Consider Prouty Beach Waterfront Rules Update (previously tabled) (attached)

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the updated rules for Prouty Beach Waterfront. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

Request to Setup Recreation Trust Fund Account for Performing Arts Center at Gardner Park (attached)

Mr. Baraw moved to approve the request to setup an account in the Recreation Trust Fund for a Performing Arts Center at Gardner Park. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Discussion on Implementation of Water Meters

Mr. Ward had previously Recommended that the City move ahead with metering and pay for it over a ten year period. Mr. Baraw noted that the voters were told that they would get to vote on the issue of metering. Mr. Wilson was very adamant that the voter hear the proposal and vote on it. A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Chenette suggested that the city has the data from the test meters and should announce two or three public hearings and then let the voters decide the metering issue. The council agreed.

Consider Proposed Water/Sewer Rates

The council discussed the proposed water/sewer rates which included the 100 or so residences with test meters. Mr. Johnson stated that in order to get 100 volunteers for test meters the council had previously at public meetings, indicated and lead people to believe that the test meters would be for data collection purposes only until the city voted to be metered. More discussion followed. The issue was set aside and will be taken up again at the next meeting.

Request Permission to expend Necessary funds to Reuse Processed Water at Wastewater Treatment Facility (attached)

Mr. Chenette moved to authorize the City Manager to expend the necessary funds to reuse processed water at the wastewater treatment facility. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Request by North Country Hospital to Hang Breast Feeding Awareness Banner at Railroad Square for Two Weeks

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the request starting next Monday for two weeks. Seconded by Mr. Chenette.

Discussion: Mr. Chenette noted that the hospital should take the banner down after two weeks.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Chenette voted yes, Mr. Baraw abstained, Mayor Monette voted yes, motion carried.

New Business

Mr. Hall spoke about the RCT Bus Stop adjacent to the Post Office that the council had taken up about a year ago. He hasn't heard anything from the council or the Downtown Design Committee. RCT is willing to pay the cost. Mr. Ward will call Mary Grant. Plans will be drawn up for council approval.

Mr. Baraw noted an E-mail from Bill Prue about dedicating a bench at the band stand for James Chapman the last conductor of the volunteer band. He felt the city should also consider Richard Croudin.

Mr. Baraw asked if the Long Bridge closing would be advertised in advance. Mr. Ward stated it would.

Trish Sears brought to the council for consideration the relocation or co-location of the Chamber Booth during the closing.

Old Business

Mr. Wilson thanked the Mayor for going to West Main St. and taking pictures of the road/sidewalk and forwarding them to the City Manager. It was fixed the next day.

Mr. Wilson asked about the beaver problem near the Paul Monfette residence. Mr. Ward stated they will remove the beavers and unplug the culvert. Mr. Wilson asked if they had been shot yet. Mr. Ward stated he didn't know if it was done yet. Mr. Wilson noted an E-mail that stated they would be shot unless the council had other alternatives. He noticed it wasn't on the agenda. Mayor Monette stated he had made the decision not to put it on the agenda and let the City Manager take care of it in order to resolve the drainage problem for the Monfette's. A lively and spirited discussion followed.

Mr. Chenette asked about the water leak on Spring St. Mr. Ward stated it had been fixed.

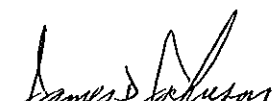
Mr. Ward stated he would put any request by an alderman on the agenda after approval by the Mayor.

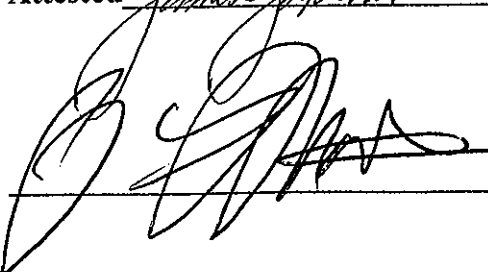
Next Meeting Date

August 15, 2011

Adjournment

Mr. Chenette moved to adjourn at 9:00 PM Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Attested  This 15th Day of August 2011

 Mayor