

**Council Minutes**  
**August 15, 2011**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City council was held on Monday, August 15, 2011 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, Tom Bernier, J. Paul Duquette, Andy Cappello, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Delabruere moved to approve the minutes of August 1, 2011. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

**Request for Free use of Gateway Center by The Vermont Association of The Blind (attached)**

Mr. Ward recommended a date after Christmas because the City may be able to rent the center before Christmas. Mr. Wilson stated they have used the center rent free for Ice Cream Socials. We wouldn't even let the city employee's use it rent free for a Christmas Party. Mr. Chenette questioned if it was a party only or included classes. Mr. Ward will check to see if it's for a party only or classes. Mr. Baraw moved to table until the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion on Clyde River Bank Maintenance**

The issue was how to make the 15 foot buffers along the Clyde River at Gardner Park look good while still maintaining the effectiveness of the buffer. The question wasn't the Trees and Shrubs but the grass that to some looks unsightly. The Memphremagog Watershed Association would like to let the grass grow naturally, others would like the grass cut to a reasonably manageable height. Mr. Chenette moved to maintain the 15 foot buffer and find a way to keep the grass trimmed to a manageable height of 12 inches. Seconded by Mr. Delabruere, motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion on Police Detective Position**

Caroline Norway and Jim & Linda Murphy were present to discuss a detective's position with the council. There has been a rash of burglaries in the Union St. area including Mrs. Norway's residence. She felt the city needed a detective's position to follow up on these crimes. Chief Duquette stated that the current force is very young however the officers are trained in evidence gathering and interviewing. The sergeants will be taking advanced training in leadership and evidence gathering. The chief stated they are doing what they can within the budget but he would not refuse a detective if the council authorized one. A neighborhood watch program was suggested. Mr. Baraw felt the council should have periodic sessions devoted to the police dept. and its needs. Other council members agreed.

### **Consider Proposed Options for Third Sr. and Pleasant St. Rebuild (attached)**

The council discussed the proposed options with Mr. Bernier and Mr. Ward.

### **Consider Agreement With Innovative Surface Solutions for use of Magnesium Chloride (attached)**

Mr. Delabruere moved to accept a three year contract with Innovative Surface Solutions for Magnesium Chloride. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

### **Consider Proposed Water/Sewer Rates**

The council again discussed the proposed water/sewer rates. Mr. Delabruere moved to approve the proposed water/sewer rates per the memo dated July 7, 2011 accept that all single family residences will be at the non-metered rate. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

### **Consider Newport City STP 2308(1) Contract No. FM0060 with State of Vermont**

Mr. Delabruere moved to approve STP 2308(1) contract #FM0060 with the State of Vermont. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

### **Consider Newport City BHO 1449(25) Utility Agreement with State of Vermont**

An agreement to move the waterline on the Long Bridge to be paid for by the State of Vermont. Mr. Delabruere moved to approve the agreement for engineering with Aldrich & Elliott to move the waterline on the Long Bridge project. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

### **Set FY 2011/2012 Tax Rate (attached)**

Mr. Chenette moved to accept the 2011/2012 tax rates per the memo from the Clerk/Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

### **Review Income/Expense Statement for July 2011**

There were no comments.

### **New Business**

Mr. Johnson stated that Passumpsic Bank is preparing the BAN documents for general road construction.

Mayor Monette noted that the City had won the Annual Cribbage Tournament with the City of Knolton, Que.

Mr. Ward noted that the Red Cross has requested free use of the council room on October 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. (attached) Mr. Baraw moved to grant the request. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ward noted a letter from Michael Hamblett regarding the Laser 28 Regatta on Sept. 17 & 18. He is requesting free overnight dockage and mooring. Mr. Ward recommended dockage & mooring at \$13.00 which is half price and the City would provide a tent, tables and chairs at no charge. The council was ok with this recommendation.

Mr. Ward stated the NVDA Annual Meeting will be held on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Monette and maybe Mr. Chenette will attend.

### **Old Business**

