

Council Minutes

August 21, 2017

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, August 21, 2017 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Council Members Julie Raboin, Denis Chenette, James Merriam, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Attorney Joe Farnham, Jamie LeClair, Tom Bernier, Pedro Grondin, members of the Press and Public.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of August 7, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by Members of the Public

Mayor Monette congratulated Andrea Carbine and Vero Rancourt on the success of Wednesdays on the Waterfront; he announced they received a \$79,625 grant from USDA for the new excavator and the City received a new grant for an Emergency Operations Center in the amount of \$3,869.

Anne Chariello commented on the Rules of Procedure and the two-minute time limit for comments.

Pam Ladds commented on the drainage ditch on Bluff Road.

Ken Cartee commented on inquiring about the status of the vacant property on Main St. and the two-minute comment rule.

Executive Session for Pending Litigation/Contract, 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A); (a)(1)(E)

Mr. Merriam moved the board's specific finding that premature general public knowledge of the subjects of the executive session tonight would clearly place the board and/or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage and further moved to enter executive session with counsel, for confidential attorney-client communications concerning contracts and pending litigation. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

No action.

Potential Council Action with Regards to Contract

Attorney Joe Farnham presented a brief summary of negotiated amendments to the 1997 Interlocal Agreement for water between the Village of Derby Center and the City of Newport (attached).

Mr. Chenette moved to execute the 2017 Amendment to the 1997 Interlocal Agreement, as signed by the Village of Derby Center Trustees on August 15, 2017, in order to comply with the Orleans Superior court's order of 2016, and to address the city's arrangements with the Village of Derby Center, as to water service. Seconded by Mr. Merriam, motion carried unanimously.

Appoint VLCT Voting Delegate

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Mayor Monette as voting delegate at the VLCT Annual Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Chenette noted a bush that needs trimming at the corner of Maple St. and Indian Point St.

Mr. Merriam noted the success of Wednesday's on the Waterfront last week and also stated that there were 100+ people at the Farm to School Gala at the Gateway the same night.

City Manager Laura Dolgin thanked Tom Bernier and our Congressional delegation for their support who were instrumental in getting the USDA grant. It is important to point out that our REAP designation was influential in getting the grant.

Old Business

Ms. Raboin asked how often the City got reports from the consultants White & Burke. Ms. Dolgin stated reports are received each month.

Mr. Chenette commented on the Airport extension. Noting that a jet had landed and they were impressed with the runway extension.

Mayor Monette noted that the project included runway and taxiway extensions and new runway lights. Also, the name of the Airport will be changed to the Northeast Kingdom International Airport.

Next Meeting Dates

City Council September 11, 2017. Centennial Committee September 21, 2017.

Adjournment

Mr. Merriam moved to adjourn at 7:55 PM. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Attested: James D. Johnson This 11th Day of September, 2017



Mayor