

Council Minutes

September 11, 2017

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, September 11, 2017 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Councilmen Denis Chenette, and James Merriam, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Tom Bernier, Seth DiSanto, Jamie LeClair, Jessica Booth, Karen Geraghty, Wayne Elliott and Nate Pion from A&E, members of the Press and Public. Councilperson Julie Raboin was absent.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of August 21, 2017 with one correction. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Mayor Monette asked for a moment of silence in memory of those who died on 9/11.

Comments by the public.

Ken Cartee and Anne Chiarello commented on the NCRC Downtown Steering Committee meeting. Karen Geraghty, Economic Development Specialist for Northeastern Vermont Development Association and current interim Chair of the Board for Newport City Renaissance Corporation (NCRC) clarified that a recent NCRC Downtown Steering Committee meeting was held for the purpose of producing work product that will soon be presented to the City Council. The report will be used during the Vermont Council on Rural Development Community Visit process scheduled for the fall and winter. Community input and cooperation with these resources is critical to transforming the City. The only private development that has occurred in the downtown designation since 1994 is Maplefields. The state office building was also erected in 1994.

Harbor Master Appointment (attached)

Mr. Wilson moved to appoint James Nagle as Harbor Master effective immediately. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Umbrella 'Paws for Cause' Request to Waive Fees (attached)

Mr. Merriam moved to approve the 'Paws for Cause' Domestic Abuse Awareness Walk on October 14, 2017, and waive the fees. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Recreation Vehicle Bids (attached)

Mr. Merriam moved to accept the bid from Hayes Ford in the amount of \$26,455.16. seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

2018 Recreation Fees and Rates (attached)

Mr. Merriam moved to approve the 2018 Recreation and Parks rates and fees. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Presentation Regarding Proposed East Side Water Tower, Engineering Agreement

Mr. Pion and Mr. Elliott gave a presentation on the proposed East Side Water Tower. Mr. Merriam moved to contract with Aldrich & Elliott for the East Side Water Tower, Preliminary Design #17179, in the amount of \$52,400. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Amendment to East Side Water Tower Planning Loan Application

Mr. Merriam moved to approve the amendment to the East Side Water Tower Planning Loan Application in the amount of \$62,400. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

West Side Water Tower Maintenance Recommendation (attached)

Mr. Chenette moved to contract with SUEZ to maintain the West Side Water Tower as proposed. Seconded by Mr. Merriam, motion carried.

Water/Sewer Allocation Request for 42 Broadview St.

Mr. Merriam moved to approve the water/sewer allocation request. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Set 2017-2018 Tax Rate (attached)

Mr. Merriam moved to set the 2017-2018 tax rates at \$2.6044 for residents and 2.7141 for non-residents. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

New Business

The council signed loan documents for the Police Departments new 2017 Explorer.

Mr. Johnson noted that appeals to the Board of Civil Authority begin Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. Merriam noted that the United Church will hold a Chicken Pie Supper on Saturday, September 16, 2017

Ms. Dolgin noted that NCIC and Preservation Trust have agreed to pay for the Hotel Feasibility Study as recommended by White & Burke in the preliminary report

Old Business

Mr. Merriam noted that the Watershed's High Meadows Grant has been approved.

Ms. Dolgin noted that NVDA will hold a second hearing on the Traffic Study on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 5:00 PM

Next Meeting Dates

City Council - September 18th

Centennial Committee - September 20th

Adjournment

Mr. Chenette moved to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Attested *James & Johnson* This 18th Day of September 2017

[Signature] Mayor