

Council Minutes

October 5, 2015

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, October 5, 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 Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Chief LeClair, Chief DiSanto, Andy Cappello, Jessica Booth, 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 September 21, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

Mr. Baraw noted the dedication of the sign at the Mel Carter Industrial Park on October 9th at 11:00 AM.

Request for United Way Banner by Madeleine Roy (attached)

Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Growing Stronger Request to Use Senior Center by Betty Hutchinson (attached)

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the request as long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Recommended Street Name Change, Crawford Farm Road to Crawford Road (attached)

Mr. Wilson questioned where the town line was and wondered if the road wasn't in Derby. Ms. Dolgin will have Mr. Elliott check it out. Mr. Roberge moved to table until next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Recreation Update Proposed 2016 Fee Schedule, Halloween Festivities, Pay.Gov presentation

Mr. Cappello presented a proposed 10% increase in recreation fees for 2016. The council had concerns about the difference in rates between residents and non-residents at Prouty beach and the City Dock. They also had concerns about the condition of the facilities at both sites. Mr. Morrisette felt the condition of the facilities didn't reflect the rates. Mr. Vincent felt the tax payers were subsidizing the non-residents, there rate should be higher. Mr. Vincent felt there should be a full time seasonal person working at the campground and there should be a small convenience store. The council also felt something should be done very soon about the milfoil at the City Dock and Prouty Beach. Mr. Morrisette noted that we advertise swimming at Prouty Beach but you can't because of the milfoil. Mayor Monette felt the rates at Gardner Park should increase at the same rate as the other facilities. Mr. Cappello will come back with a revised fee schedule. Mr. Roberge moved to table until next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cappello noted the Monster Bash on Halloween, October 31, 2015 (attached)

Mr. Cappello gave a presentation on Pay.gov. He would like to start accepting credit cards at the City dock and Prouty Beach (attached). Mr. Vincent moved to enter a contract with Pay.gov.US for the City dock and Prouty Beach. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

VLCT Municipal Draft Policy

Mayor Monette asked the council for suggested changes to present at the VLCT Annual Meeting. Mr. Wilson stated that since there are two international lakes in Vermont, Lake Memphremagog should be inserted in the policy everywhere that Lake Champlain is mentioned. He felt Lake Memphremagog needed as much recognition as Lake Champlain.

Unassigned Funds Approval

Ms. Dolgin stated that it appears the City will have \$224,000 in unassigned funds at the end of 2014-15. She suggested assigning \$60,000 to public works vehicles, \$129,000 to street resurfacing and \$34,127 to facilities. After some discussion, the council decided to assign \$60,000 to public works vehicles, \$50,000 to street resurfacing, \$10,000 to a Municipal Building sinking fund and the rest to be divided between Prouty Beach and Gateway/Waterfront sinking funds. Mr. Vincent so moved, Seconded by Mr. Morrisette, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Wilson asked about the camper parked at the sewer plant. Ms. Dolgin stated that it belonged to the contractor working on the diffuser at the plant.

Ms. Dolgin noted that budget meetings will start in November.

Mayor Monette noted that he and Ms. Dolgin will meet with Comcast to see if they can cover all city facilities and what the rates would be.

Old Business

Umbrella requested an appropriation from the City at Town Meeting in March. Mr. Johnson will inform them of the cities policy on appropriation requests.

Chief LeClair noted the Fire Departments Open House on Saturday, October 10, 2015

Next Meeting Date

October 19, 2015

Executive Session- Personnel

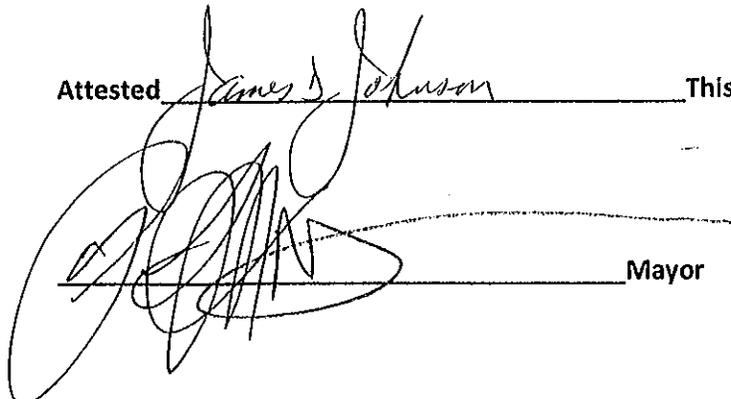
Mr. Roberge moved to enter executive session. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

No action.

Adjourn

Mr. Vincent moved to adjourn at 8:55 PM. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Attested James D. Johnson This 19th Day of October 2015



Mayor