

**Council Meeting  
October 15, 2012**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, October 15, 2012 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building 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, Jamie LeClair, Trish Sears and members of the Press and Public. Alderman Delabruere was absent.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of October 1, 2012. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

**Request to Waive \$70 Permit Fee for Make-A-Wish Vermont**

Mr. Chenette moved to waive the permit fee for Make-A-Wish Vermont. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

**Consider Downtown Designation Renewal**

Mr. Baraw moved to approve the application for downtown designation renewal. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

**Request to Close Main St. on 31 October from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM for Annual Halloween Event.**

Mr. Chenette moved to authorize the closing of Main St. on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:00PM to 7:30 PM. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

**Consider Bids for Gateway Heating System**

Mr. Chenette moved to accept the bid from RC Mechanical in the amount of \$21,725 for the Gateway heating system. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried.

#### **Water/Sewer Allocation for Daycare on Pleasant St.**

Mr. Baraw moved to approve allocation request #P12-004. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

#### **Water/Sewer Allocation for Two Lots on Memphremagog Views**

Mr. Baraw moved to approve request #P12-002. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

#### **Water/Sewer Allocation for 184 Jackson St.**

Mr. Baraw moved to approve request #P12-003. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

#### **Consider Repairs for Municipal Building**

Repairs will be the replacement of 12 Windows in the GYM and repair of the balcony over the main entrance. The cost for the window replacement will be \$6,520 and the balcony will be \$1,550. Mr. Baraw moved to go ahead with the repairs to the Municipal Building. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

#### **Review Commissioner of Labor vs. City of Newport Decision**

The judge upheld the decision and the fine is \$1,000. Mr. Ward <sup>42</sup>felt the violation was not a serious one and they were doing everything safely. Mr. Ward felt that if the city didn't appeal VOSHA might have a tendency to issue violations at will. We may still lose an appeal. Mr. Ward would like permission to move ahead with the appeal process if not too expensive. He estimated the cost of the appeal at \$1,000. The other alternative is to pay the fine and close the streets when work is being done. Mr. Chenette stated he hated to see the City be an easy mark. Mr. Wilson didn't want to irritate VOSHA and Mr. Baraw felt that VOSHA might be vindictive if we appeal. There was no action on the request to proceed with the appeal.

#### **Review Income/Expense thru September 2012**

Mr. Baraw asked if the property tax issue had been resolved. Mr. Johnson stated it was there had been a double entry.

### **Managing Municipal Assets Held in Trust**

Mr. Ward stated that he had attended a conference and had learned that funds held in trust could not be invested in individual stocks. They had to be invested in government secured securities, Mutual Funds or in funds with over 500 million in assets. Mr. Johnson stated that he had checked with Passumpsic Bank and both the Niles and Cemetery Funds are invested in Mutual Funds and that both have assets in the billions of dollars. There are no issues with either fund.

### **Niles Fund Application**

Mr. Baraw moved to approve the request for Niles Funds. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

### **New Business**

Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Ward for removing up the Derby restaurant sign. However on October 5<sup>th</sup> he informed the city sign expert of a sign placed by Derby village Green regarding a Halloween Hustle on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wilson was told that the sign would be removed immediately. On October 9<sup>th</sup> the sign was still there. Tonight October 15<sup>th</sup> the sign is still there. Mr. Wilson stated he should have and next time will go directly to Mr. Ward to have signs removed. Mr. Wilson stated we don't need other towns putting up signs in the city.

Trish Sears noted that Vermont Downtown will be holding its quarterly meeting in Newport on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Monette noted that the Public Service Board will be visiting the Solar Installation Project on Bobbin Mill Rd. Friday October 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Baraw requested that repairs be done to the entrance of Sloan St. from Indian Point St.

Mr. Chenette thanked Mr. Ward for the repairs at the Recycling Center.

**Next Meeting**

November 5, 2012

**Adjournment**

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

Attested James D. Johnson This 5<sup>th</sup> Day of November 2012

[Signature]  
Mayor