

Council Minutes

October 16, 2017

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, October 16, 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 and James Merriam, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Tom Bernier, Jamie LeClair, Wayne Elliott and Nate Pion from A&E Engineering members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the Meeting to order at 7:00 PM immediately following a Public hearing on the Proposed East Side Water Tower.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

Penny Thomas would like to see the agenda's printed in the paper.

Brian McNeal commented on the hole on Main St.

Ratification of Public Works Contract

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the Public Works Contract. Seconded by Mr. Merriam, motion carried unanimously.

Brownfield's Grant Application Authorization (attached)

Mr. Merriam moved to move forward with the Brownfield's Grant application. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Financial Audit Review

The council reviewed the 2016-2017 Audit. Ms. Dolgin noted that the \$82,000 in restricted funds was the Pomerleau donation, there are \$331,246 in committed funds, \$356,527 in unassigned funds and \$17,000 in assigned funds.

New Business

Mayor Monette noted that the warning for a Public hearing on amendments to the City Plan would be posted on November 3, 2017 with the hearing on November 20, 2017.

Mayor Monette noted he had attended the Downtown Designation Retreat in Grand Isle.

Mr. Chenette stated that some residents would like a light installed on utility pole number 12296 on Pine St.

Mr. Merriam noted that the Watershed Association has its first employee, his wife.

Mr. Merriam noted the Community Meal at the United Church on Thursday.

Ms. Dolgin noted a Brownfield's public meeting in Barton on November 1, 2017.

Old Business

Ms. Raboin noted she attended an Efficiency Vermont meeting last week and learned a lot about what Efficiency Vermont can provide.

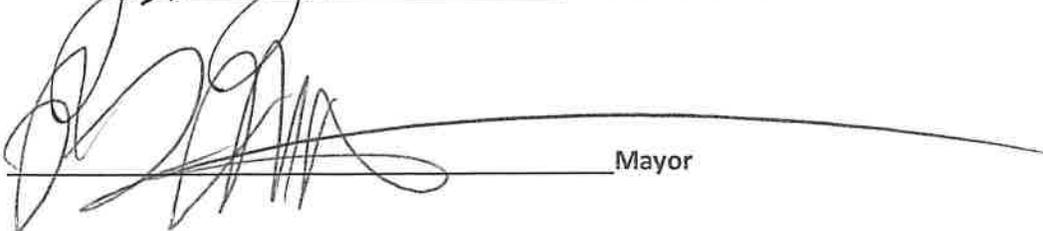
Next Meeting Dates

Next Public Hearing on the East Side Water Tower October 30, 2017, Centennial meeting October 25, 2017, Council Meeting November 6, 2017 and Vote on the Water tower November 7, 2017.

Adjournment

Mr. Chenette moved to adjourn at 7:46 PM. Seconded by Mr. Merriam, motion carried unanimously.

Attested  This 6th Day of November 2017

 Mayor

Invitation to Participate in the Northeast Vermont Development Association (NVDA) Coalition's Site Reuse and Revitalization Program Community-Wide Kick-Off Meeting

The NVDA, in conjunction with Newport and St. Johnsbury, is currently preparing an application for up to \$600,000 in brownfield grant funding for the reuse and revitalization of properties throughout the tri-county area of Caledonia, Essex and Orleans. The grant application will be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on November 16, 2017, and funding will be awarded during the spring of 2018. The NVDA and its coalition partners are soliciting community-based organizations and the general public for support and involvement in the grant application process and the development of a sustainable site revitalization program.

A revitalization opportunity site is defined broadly by the U.S. EPA as "abandoned, idled or under-used property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." The U.S. EPA grants support five general types of activities – all of which are relevant to the Coalition's priority revitalization initiatives:

- Conducting a community-wide inventory of potential sites;
- Identifying priority opportunity sites and conducting assessment activities;
- Conducting cleanup and reuse planning;
- Community outreach; and
- Planning for revitalization of priority areas or corridors.

Additional sources of State or Federal funding will be sought for cleanup work. The goal of the U.S. EPA program is to turn underutilized sites from community blight to community benefit, restoring them to safe, viable properties that contribute to the economic wellbeing of the community.

A public meeting will be held at 6:00-7:00PM on Wednesday, November 1st at the Barton Memorial Building (19 Village Square, Barton; Community Hall – Downstairs) to provide basic information on the site reuse and revitalization program, explain the grant application process, solicit community support and initiate a discussion of priority reuse and revitalization opportunities. Typical properties that are eligible for use of this funding include (but are not limited to):

- Former gas stations
- Former dry cleaners
- Former automotive repair shops
- Old dumps or landfills
- Old salvage yards
- Any type of buildings with asbestos and/or lead-based paint
- Methamphetamine labs
- Former industrial sites
- Old manufacturing plants
- Old foundry companies
- Former paper products manufacturing
- Former battery manufacturing or recycling facilities

We look forward to your participation! For more information, please contact:

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