

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 17, 2016

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, October 17, 2016, in the Council Room in the Newport City Municipal Building. Present were: Mayor Paul Monette, Aldermen John Wilson, Jacques Roberge and Steve Vincent, City Manager Laura Dolgin and Assistant City Clerk/Treasurer Stacey Therrien, Police Chief Seth DiSanto, Andrew Cappello and members of the press and public. Absent was Council President, Neil Morrissette.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of October 3, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Members of the Public

None

Presentation on Starry Stonewort by Anne Bove, Aquatic Invasive Species Management, VT DEC, Watershed Management Division

Ms. Bove presented an update regarding the recently identified new species. This species is non-native to Vermont, although is native to Europe, and has made its way into the area of Scotts Cove and the South Bay of Lake Memphremagog as well as in Derby Pond. The State recommends a public awareness campaign to broadcast prevention efforts and awareness as a means to slow the spread of Starry Stonewort through signage, wash stations, applying for grants, working with the state to schedule the portable decontamination unit, and more training to check growth patterns.

Proposed Main St. Traffic Study, Doug Morton, NVDA, Traffic Planning Specialist

Doug Morton from NVDA presented that given the change in status of the Eb5 expectations, revisiting the Transportation Planning Infrastructure Study completed in 2012 is timely. That study encompassed a large geographic region in the NEK, and parts of it still apply to the City. It makes sense to revisit the Main Street traffic issues from Third Street to the Interstate Access regarding vehicle, bike and pedestrian movements. NVDA will fund this study by providing a consultant/engineer (amount to be determined.) There will later be a need for a steering committee, alternatives developed, public meetings and a finalized formal plan. Doug will work with the City Manager on this project. The City Council agreed that this is an important issue to pursue.

Police Department Contract Time Fees and Rate Adjustment

Chief DiSanto made a request to change the Police contract rate to a flat hourly rate of \$50.00 instead of the varying rates that are currently in effect. Mr. Vincent moved to approve change in rate. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Request to Finance New Police Cruiser

Chief DiSanto stated that the 2013 cruiser has been consuming a large amount of repair costs and he recommended a new cruiser to be purchased. Mr. Vincent made a motion to purchase a new cruiser, seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Update Regarding Police Training

Chief DiSanto presented a video taken from a patrol officer's camera that demonstrated the challenges police officers face in daily operations. The chief used the video as an opportunity to educate the community about how police use their vast trainings and skilled judgment to help them handle different and delicate situations.

Monster Bash Request

Andy Cappello presented the annual Halloween Festivities, the Monster Bash, scheduled for October 29, 2016. The event is scheduled to begin at noon until 3:00 p.m. People will assemble at the bandstand for a costume parade, trick-or-treating on Main St., and assembling at the Municipal Building for fun activities. Jacques Roberge moved to approve the event with Steve Vincent seconding, motion carried unanimously.

Comcast Easement Request

Comcast requested a right of way behind the Rural Edge apartments on Main St. to run cable through the City-owned portion of the lot. Mr. Roberge made a motion to grant the right of way to Comcast, seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Bike Path Lease

Central Maine & Quebec Railway, US, Inc., requested a renewal lease be signed for the Bike Path right of way, commencing retroactive to January 1, 2015, and shall terminate on December 31, 2033, with the base rate of renewal rent of \$3700.00. Mr. Vincent made a motion to sign the lease agreement with lessee, seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Audit Draft Review

Basic Financial Statement draft audit from CPA firm Kittell, Branagan & Sargent was reviewed by the council. The Council asked City Manager, Laura Dolgin to have KBS print final audit report.

New Business

Alderman John Wilson asked if the water levels of the City's pumps were where they needed to be due to the lack of rain. City Manager, Laura Dolgin stated she will ask Thomas Bernier, Public Works Director.

Old Business

City Manager, Laura Dolgin stated that 94 meters have been requested for installation and 16 of those have already been installed. Also, approximately \$80,000 in utilities, and \$80,000 in taxes have been turned over to the City's attorney for collections.

Next Meetings

*Informational Meeting for VCDP Planning Grant Application set for October 24, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

*Centennial Planning Committee meeting set for October 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

*New Business Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Pride Fitness set for November 17, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. located at 326 Bluff Road.

*Next Regular Council meeting set for November 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

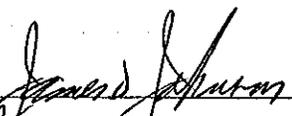
Executive Session to discuss Public Works Negotiation

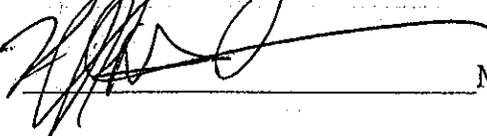
Mr. Vincent made a motion to enter into executive session, seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously, at 8:30

Open session: No motions made.

Adjournment

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

Attested  This 7th Day of Nov. 2016.



Mayor