

Council Minutes

October 19, 2015

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City council was held on Monday, October 19, 2015 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John A. Wilson, Aldermen Jacques Roberge, Neil Morrissette and Steven Vincent, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson and members of the Press and Public

Mayor Monette opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of October 5, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

Pam Ladd left material from the Secretary of State's transparency tour.

Request for UPS Store Loading Zone Parking Spot (attached)

Mr. Roberge moved to reinstate the Loading Zone in front of the UPS Store at Central and Main Streets. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Request for Parking for Private Function, Amy Crouch

Efficiency Vermont Presentation (attached)

St. Albans Mayor Liz Gamache and Phil Bickel gave a presentation on Efficiency Vermont to the city council.

Fire Department Grant Opportunity (attached)

Chief LeClair requested approval to apply for an Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant and gave several options to apply for. Mr. Vincent moved to approve the application for an Assistance to Fire fighters Grant, option "A". Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Property Tax and Contract Proposal Newport Ambulance Service

Michael Paradis stated that they had missed the deadline for petitions last and had gotten a tax bill this year. He noted that five years ago the same thing happened they paid the bill and the City reimbursed them. He would like the City to forgive the tax bill and put the exemption request on the ballot next town Meeting. Mayor Monette explained that the City council can't abate taxes. Mr. Johnson explained that the exemption request must have a petition in order to be put on the ballot. However the Ambulance Service is not required to get a petition for their appropriation request. The Ambulance Service would also like to contract with the City and make the appropriation a budgeted line item. The proposed contract will be reviewed. Mr. Morrissette moved to table until the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Permission for Halloween Hustle and Santa Festival (attached)

Phil White requested permission for the Annual Halloween Hustle and the Santa Fest. Mr. Vincent moved to approve the request for the Halloween Hustle and the Santa Fest. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

Street Name Change for 911, Charlie Elliott (attached)

Mr. Roberge moved to approve changing Crawford Farm Road to Crawford Road. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette. Discussion: Mr. Elliott stated that Derby had agreed to change the sign and there would be no cost to the City. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks Rate change Proposal, Andy Cappello

Mr. Roberge moved to raise the non-resident rates by 10% and the resident rates by 3% including Gardner Park. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

NCUHS Request to Hang Banner

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the request to hang a banner for the musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the bottom of East Main St. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Request from NEKCA to Host Hunger Bowl @ Gardner Park and Post Banner, Tammy Lamoureux (attached)

The Hunger Bowl is to benefit the local food shelf. Mr. Morrissette moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Vincent, motion carried unanimously.

Acknowledge Volunteer Day

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the proclamation recognizing November 1, 2015 as "Extra Mile Day". Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Monette signed the proclamation on behalf of the City of Newport.

New Business

Mr. Roberge suggested the council send a letter to Irasburg supporting their fight against the wind tower development. The council basically declined to send a letter without voter approval. The question could be put on the ballot in March.

Old Business

Mayor Monette stated he had attended the VLCT Annual Meeting. At the meeting he asked why Lake Memphremagog was not mentioned as needing cleaning up in the plan. They stated it was because Lake Champlain is the EPA's focus now, Lake Memphremagog is next in line. Also the gas tax increase is to help finance the cleanup.

Mr. Morrissette stated that Western Ave. needed to be lined because people can't tell where the lanes are. Also the RR trestle looks a lot better

Mr. Wilson noted that West Main St. had been patched and the sidewalk fixed by paving it. The center line needs to be painted because at night you can't tell what the road is and what the sidewalk is.

Mayor Monette noted that the light on Main St. is still out and the one at the bottom of East Main St. is still on. Also the light at the memorial at Gardner Park is still not working.

Mr. Johnson felt there should be a light on the curve between the underpass and Maple St.

Next Meeting Date

November 2, 2015

Adjournment

Mr. Morrissette moved to adjourn at 8:13 PM. Seconded by Mr. Roberge, motion carried unanimously.

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

[Signature]
Mayor