

Council Minutes

November 17, 2014

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, November 17, 2014 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council president John Wilson, Aldermen Richard Baraw, Denis Chenette and Neil Morrissette, City Manager John Ward Jr., City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, James LeClair, Tom Bernier, Andy Cappello, Seth DiSanto, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Baraw moved to approve the minutes of November 3, 2014 as printed. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

None

North Country Union High School Request to Use Fire Station as Emergency Evacuation Location

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

Consider Prouty Beach High Speed Internet Service (attached)

Mayor Monette thanked Mr. Cappello for the information.

Consider Assessor's Recommendation on Reappraisal Proposals (attached)

Mr. Potter recommended Vision Appraisal do the reappraisal since we currently use Vision in the Assessor's office. The council agreed to have Mr. Potter discuss with Vision Appraisal the process of reappraisal.

Consider RFP for Gardner Memorial Park (attached)

The planning grant is in the amount of \$30,000. This RFP is for an Environmental Study which needs to be done first before moving ahead with the project. Mr. Morrisette moved to approve the RFP for the Gardner Memorial Park Environmental Study. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Consider FY16 Budget

The council discussed the proposed FY16 budget. Mr. Ward stated that the proposed budget reflected a 3.8% or \$.0657 increase from the current municipal rate of \$1.1846. The council discussed several areas that could be reduced including Recreation Dept. equipment, Public Works equipment and street paving, and Renaissance funding. Mr. Chenette felt the budget should be level funded. Mr. Ward will find places to reduce the budget and present the revised budget proposal at the next meeting.

New Business

Mr. Morrisette stated that his group was one step away from getting transportation for people in the area who are employed at Jay Peak.

Mr. Ward stated that an executive session would be needed to discuss a possible real estate transaction.

Beth Barnes requested a sign at the beginning of the Beebe Spur Rail Trail in Newport to promote Memphremagog Ski touring Foundations cross country ski and mountain bike trails. She also invited the council to the next Walking School Bus, Friday November 21, 2014 leaving the Courthouse Square at 7:40 AM

Old Business

Mayor Monette thanked Mr. Ward for getting the water leak fixed at the Chamber Booth

Mayor Monette noted that after the last meeting he had been asked why he was against the Santa Festival. He Stated he was in favor of the festival, he was just asking questions that he felt needed to be asked.

Mr. Chenette stated that the Facilities Committee now had its third member and would be meeting soon.

Mr. Chenette moved to require all organizations requesting an appropriation to get a petition no acceptions. There was no second to the motion. Mr. Chenette stated he felt that was what was being suggested at the last meeting. Ann Charrillo stated that was not what they suggested. They suggested that organization who have gotten petitions for many years be exempt from having to get a petition. She felt it was a waste of their time and resources.

Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Cappello for setting up the Gym for Veterans Day.

Ann Charrillo felt that without requiring everyone to have a water meter those that wanted to have a meter installed should be able to and be charged a metered rate.

Next Meeting Date

December 1, 2014

Executive Session for a Possible Real Estate Transaction

Mr. Chenette moved to enter executive session for a real estate transaction. Seconded by Mr. Baraw, motion carried unanimously.

No action.

Adjournment

Mr. Morrissette moved to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Attested *James J. Adams* This 1ST Day of December 2014

[Signature]
Mayor