

## **Council Minutes**

**December 15, 2014**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, December 15, 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, Chief LeClair, Chief DiSanto, members of the Press and Public

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Baraw moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2014 as printed. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

### **Comments by the Public**

Beth Barnes thanked the Recreation Dept. for the great job at the Pomerleau Christmas Party and invited the council to the next walk to school on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM.

### **Consider Northern Star Lake Cruises Proposal to rent for the Summer Season the Second Floor of the Gateway building for \$500 per month (attached)**

Chris Johansen from Northern Star Cruises felt the second floor of the Gateway was underutilized and would like to rent the second floor from the time school lets out until after fall foliage season for \$500 per month. All council members were in favor of the proposal. Mr. Ward listed his concern about the proposal. Mr. Wilson moved to have the City Manager and Mr. Johansen work out a lease agreement, have it reviewed by the City Attorney and bring it back to the council for approval. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

### **Consider specific Requests Related to Hosting of Various Kingdom Games (attached)**

Phil White reviewed his requests with the council. Mayor Monette felt that because of the many requests for city resources Kingdom Games should at least pay for the use of the Gateway. Mr. Baraw moved that the council support Kingdom Games events according to December 15, 2014 memo from Andy Cappello. Seconded by Mr. Wilson. Discussion: Mr. Chenette stated that he and Mr. Morrissette

had met with Mr. White and that he was in favor of the requests. Mr. Morrissette is also in favor of the requests. Some felt a poll or survey should be done to show the economic impact of the games. Mr. McNeal would like to see numbers that show how the games benefit the tax payer. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Resolution for Sustainable Education Funding Reform in Vermont (attached)**

Mr. Chenette moved to support the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

**Request Permission to Issue Bid Proposal for Municipal Building Renovations**

This phase of renovations will be for the police department. Mr. Baraw moved to authorize the City Manager to issue bid proposals for police department renovations. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Budget Status Report for FY 15**

No questions or comments.

**Consider FY 16 Budget**

Mr. Chenette moved to accept the FY 16 budget as presented in the proposal dated December 3, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Policy on appropriations Requests (attached)**

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the Appropriation Request Policy with a five year requirement, an Exempt provision and the requirement of a letter and financial report. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Water, Sewer and Drainage Infrastructure Policy (attached)**

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the policy. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Water Meter Acquisition Cost**

The consensus of the council was to stay with the \$561.98 cost to purchase a water meter.

**Request Permission to contract with Vision Government Solutions, Inc. for City wide Reappraisal in 2017 (attached)**

Mr. Chenette moved to contract with Vision Government Solutions, Inc. for the city wide reappraisal in the amount of \$177,000. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

The council signed a liquor license application for Eden Ice Bar and Grill.

Mr. Chenette asked where the trophy case would be relocated to. Mr. Ward stated it would be brought upstairs and that a drug disposal box would be installed in its place.

MR. Chenette asked about the different colors on the fire hydrants. Chief LeClair stated that each color represented different gallon per minute range. Chief LeClair also stated that a few hydrants were out of service and that he and Public works were working on it.

**Old Business**

Mayor Monette stated that he had written the letter to the Director of Us Customs Field Operation and our Congressional delegation as well. (attached)

**Next Meeting Date**

January 1, 2015

**Adjourn**

Mr. Chenette moved to adjourn at 9:29 PM. Seconded by Mr. Morrissette, motion carried unanimously.

Attested *James Johnson* This *5<sup>th</sup>* Day of *January* 2015

*[Signature]*  
Mayor