

Council Minutes

February 19, 2018

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on February 19, 2018 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President John Wilson, Council Members Julie Raboin, Denis Chenette, James Merriam, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Jessica Booth, Tom Bernier, Jamie LeClair, Karen Geraghty, Dave Snediker, Kevin Charboneau, Andrea Carbine, Vero Rancourt, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM immediately following a Public Informational Hearing on a proposed Community Facilities Grant for Vermont Land Trust regarding the Scott Farm.

Ms. Raboin requested to amend the agenda by having number 9B (Contracts), discussed in open session. She wondered if it met executive session criteria. Mayor Monette stated that it was in executive session as advised by the City Attorney. Ms. Raboin moved to have 9B placed under open session. There was no second to the motion.

Ms. Raboin requested to have number 9A (Corrective action against a Public Officer) discussed in open session since it pertained to her. After some discussion the council agreed to take up the issue in open session as per Ms. Raboin's request.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of February 5, 2018 with a correction. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Comments by the Public

None

Wednesdays on the Waterfront Request (attached)

Mr. Wilson moved to support Wednesdays on the Waterfront with \$1,000 from this year's budget with funds left in Council Special Projects, and \$1,000 out of next year's council special projects budget. Seconded by Mr. Chenette. Discussion; Mr. Chenette pointed out that this means there will be less for future projects. Motion carried.

Vermont Land Trust Presentation

Tracy Zschau updated the council on things happening at Bluffside Farm and the update can be found on Vermont Land Trusts Web-site.

Corrective Action against a Public Official

Mayor Monette read a memo from the City Attorney concerning allegations that Ms. Raboin had leaked confidential executive session material. As alerted to him by the attorney for the North Country Federal Credit Union. Mayor Monette stressed that this is a serious matter. Ms. Raboin denied the allegations. Ms. Raboin asked that the City Attorney investigate the matter further. The council agreed to this request.

New Business

Mayor Monette thanked the Recreation Dept. and Jessica Booth for their work on a successful Father Daughter Dance.

Mayor Monette noted he saw on WCAX that reporter Eva McKerd learned how to drive a snowmobile from Roger Gosselin.

Mr. Wilson noted that Mr. Gosselin had met Mrs. Staniforth on the Bike Path and she indicated that the snowmobile trail down Broadview St. was working well.

Mr. Chenette asked who owns the R.R. bridge. Mr. Bernier stated that the R.R. owns the bridge, but the City owns the decking.

Mr. Chenette commended the Fire Dept. on their Annual Meeting Banquet.

Mr. Wilson noted that there are many pot-holes starting to show up.

Mr. Chenette also commended Jessica Booth on the Father Daughter Dance.

Mr. Chenette noted that there was no City Flag at the Fire Dept. He feels the City should have a flag.

Mr. Merriam thanked NEK-TV and WIKE for the candidate forum.

Old Business

Mr. Merriam moved to amend the coin drop calendar and approve the DAV's late Coin drop request for November 10, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette noted that Kingdom Games would be holding the 4th Annual Ice Swim

Mr. Merriam noted that there was a surprise Birthday Party for Benita Benson at the United Church last Sunday.

Set Next Meeting Dates

Centennial Planning Committee February 20, 2018, Council Meeting and Informational Meeting March 5th, 2018 at the Gateway, 100th Annual Meeting March 6th, 2018.

Executive session for contracts, 1 VSA sec 313(a)(1)

Mr. Merriam moved to enter executive session for contract's & pending litigation and that for the boards specific finding that premature general knowledge of the subjects of the anticipated executive session would clearly place the board and /or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried. Wilson, Chenette, Merriam in favor, Raboin opposed.

In open session Mr. Chenette moved to approve the contract with North Country Federal Credit Union. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Executive Session Real Estate, 1 V.S.A. sec. 313(a)(2)

Mr. Merriam moved to enter executive session to discuss a real estate matter, 1 V.S.A. sec. 313 (a)(2). Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

No action.

Adjournment

Mr. Merriam moved to adjourn at 8:34 PM. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Attested: James Johnson This 5th Day of March 2018

[Signature] Mayor