

Council Minutes

March 19, 2018

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on March 19, 2018 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council Members Kevin Charboneau, Julie Raboin, Denis Chenette, Daniel Ross, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Tom Bernier, Jessica Booth, Seth DiSanto, Jamie LeClair Charles Elliott, Karen Geraghty, Tracy Zschau, Jenn Hollar, Michael Marcotte, members of the Press and Public

Mayor Monette opened the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Mayor Monette welcomed the new council members Kevin Charboneau and Daniel Ross

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Raboin moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

Laurie Grimm introduced Jen Bernier from Fresh Start.

Jen Bernier Stated that she was getting the Community Garden ready to go and had a few new ideas. She would like to be on the next council meeting agenda.

Election of City Council President

Ms. Raboin moved to elect Denis Chenette, Council President. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Appointments

City Manager

Mr. Charboneau moved to appoint Laura Dolgin, City Manager. Seconded by Mr. Ross

Discussion: Mayor Monette stated that nothing to do with the City Managers evaluation can be discussed in public.

Several people spoke out against reappointing Laura Dolgin as City Manager. Several people also spoke in favor of reappointing Laura Dolgin as City Manager.

Ms. Raboin asked that the appointment be tabled until the council could review the City Manager's evaluation per the cities policy. Mr. Ross withdrew his second to the motion. Mr. Charboneau withdrew his motion. Mayor Monette asked that the council go into executive session now to avoid prolonging the appointment.

Mr. Chenette moved to enter executive session to review the City Managers evaluation. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried.

Upon returning to open session Mr. Charboneau moved to appoint Laura Dolgin, City Manager. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried. Mr. Ross, Mr. Charboneau and Mr. Chenette voting in favor. Ms. Raboin abstained.

Mr. Ross moved to appoint Tom Bernier, Director of Public Works. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Seth DiSanto, Chief of Police. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin moved to appoint Jamie LeClair, Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ross moved to appoint Jessica Booth, Director of Parks & Recreation. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ross moved to appoint Charles Elliott, Zoning Administrator. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ross moved to appoint Spencer Potter, Tax Assessor. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint the firm of Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, City Attorney. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried. Mr. Charboneau, Mr. Chenette and Mr. Ross voted in favor. Ms. Raboin voted against the appointment.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Frank Ormsbee, John Ward Sr. and Denis Chenette, Cemetery Commission. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Marin Gardyne, Heidi Santaw, Rene Boudreault, Aaron Carr, Aaron Larson, Jennifer Smith and Suzanna Zelif to the Recreation Committee. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Planning commission, Charlie Elliott recommended that the appointments be postponed. Mr. Ross noted that the Planning Commission could operate with three members. Ms. Raboin moved to appoint Woodman Page and Clark Curtis to the planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint James Nagel, Harbor Master. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Ronald Chaffee, Archie Lewis and William Round to the Harbor Commission. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin moved to appoint John Harlamert and Denise Letourneau-Bowen to the Development Review Board. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried.

Mr. Ross moved to appoint Laura Dolgin, Delinquent Tax Collector. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Jamie LeClair, Town Service Officer. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin moved to appoint the Newport City Police Department, Animal Control Officers. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Jamie LeClair, Health Officer. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ross moved to appoint Robert Gosselin, Tree Warden. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Colleen Moore de-Ortiz Weigher of Coal. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Jacques Roberge, Inspector of Wood and Shingles. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Paul Momette and Laura Dolgin as Representatives to NVDA. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin moved to appoint Paul Monette as representative to EDC. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin moved to appoint Denis Chenette, Donald Hendrich and Jennifer Bernier as Fence Viewers. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Charles Elliott, Building Safety Officer. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Clark Curtis and Woodman Page to the Historic Preservation Commission. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Vermont Land Trust Presentation (attached)

Tracy Zschau from Vermont Land Trust, Jennifer Hollar from Vermont Housing and Conservation, Representative Michael Marcotte and Karen Geraghty from NVDA gave a presentation on the Bluffside Farm and H.878.

Ms. Raboin moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support endorsing the remaining VHCB, H.878 funds to be used towards the Bluffside Recreational Corridor Development. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Water/Sewer Allocation

Mr. Chenette moved to approve a Water/Sewer Allocation request from Butterfly Child Care Center located at 95 pleasant St., owned by Jim Morse/Joel Tremblay. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mayor Monette read a thank you from Sandra Baraw and family for the flowers for Mr. Baraw's funeral.

Ms. Dolgin reminded the Council of the VHB walk on Wednesday at 1:00 PM. And the public meeting at 6:30 pm.

The council signed liquor license renewals.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve an Outside Consumption Permit for Noonan's Supper Club. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin asked how the recruiting was going for the shared Economic Development position

Mr. Chenette thanked Public Works for their quick response to the broken water pipe on Duchess St.

Ms. Raboin had been asked by a resident about water/ sewer rates after a fire. Mayor Monette stated that the city ordinance requires any property that has access to water has fixed costs to pay.

Old Business

In response to Mr. Ward's questions at the March 5th meeting Mayor Monette stated that the Library is in the Audit report because they receive an appropriation and have been in the Audit for a couple of years.

Sewer monitoring is in process.

Attorney fees are high because of Tax Sales which are reimbursed to the City and the TIF work was booked to this line item.

Article 7 has been carried out.

The Bike Path project had ended and the books are closed. The VT. Agency of Transportation confirmed that the funds showing on our records were not originated by the grant because it was a drawdown..

Principal amounts in the water and sewer debt service are booked the Notes Payable (liabilities) upon instruction of the auditors is done each year

Next Meeting Dates

Council meeting: April 2, 2018, Centennial meeting: April 5, 2018.

Adjournment

Ms. Raboin moved to adjourn at 9:20 PM. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Attested  This 2nd Day of April 2018

Mayor: 