

Council Minutes

May 7, 2018

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, May 7, 2018 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Denis Chenette, Council Members Julie Raboin, Kevin Charboneau and Daniel Ross, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Tom Bernier, Jamie LeClair, Jessica Booth, Karen Geraghty, Phil White, Pat Austin, Michelle Tarryk, Stan Chop, Robert Gosselin and members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Raboin moved to approve the minutes of April 16, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by Members of the Public

Mayor Monette thanked the volunteers who participated in Green Up Day.

Mayor Monette noted that NVDA has been awarded a Greenfields Grant for Newport and St. Johnsbury.

Mayor Monette noted The Vermont Legislature presented the City with a Resolution honoring the Centennial. Mayor Monette, Ms. Dolgin and Mr. Johnson presented City Centennial Portraits to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Governor.

James Merriam feels the City should embrace the new recycling compost changes.

Children's Parade Follow Up

Diane Nichols-Fleming and presented a thank you card to the council for waiving the fees. The parade was a success even though it rained. The mayor thanked the staff for mobilizing quickly given the weather conditions

Kingdom Swim Event Request

Phil White requested approval of the event application for Kingdom Swim scheduled for July 28, 2018 and requested that the council waive the fees for this event. Jessica Booth went over the Event Policy's seven criteria for eligibility.

Ms. Raboin moved to waive \$410 worth of fees for the Kingdom Swim. Seconded by Mr. Ross.

Discussion: Mayor Monette felt a new line items should be created in the budget to keep track of the cost to the City for Council waived events.

Motion carried with Mr. Chenette abstaining.

Mr. Chenette moved to open a new line item to track the cost of Council waived events. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Rotary Tree Presentation (attached)

Michelle Tarryk and Stan Chop presented a MOU and plan for the Newport Rotary Club to donate and plant Service Berry trees along the Causeway and Gardner park. The only cost to the City would be fertilizer and watering. Mr. Ross moved to accept the MOU and fertilize the trees once a year and water the trees. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Recycling Tipping Fees Increase (attached)

Pat Austin updated the council on the increase in recycling tipping fees adopted by the Chittenden Solid Waste District for out of district recycling haulers. He requested that the City send a letter to the Chittenden Solid Waste district protesting the increase.

Mr. Chenette moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of objection for the out of district recycling tipping fees. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Order Public Works Truck (attached)

Mr. Chenette moved to order the Freightliner M2 106 for \$80,915. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Sewer & Water Allocation Requests

Mr. Ross moved to approve the sewer and water allocation request for 63 Third St #P18-004. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ross moved to approve the sewer and water allocation request #P18-003. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Northern Borders Grant Application & EDA Grant Application

The Northern Borders Grant is a \$250,000 grant to refurbish the Boardwalk in coordination with the state. Ms. Raboin moved to apply for the Northern Borders Grant. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

The EDA Grant is a \$1,600,000 grant for the construction of the proposed Water Tower. Mr. Chenette moved to apply for the EDA Grant. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Downtown Designation Update

Karen Geraghty updated the Council on the Downtown Designation. She noted that the state was not in favor that the new Executive Director would be under the control of both the City and the Downtown Board. It would be best if City budgeted for part of the position and Wal-Mart funds were used for part of the position and that the position would be solely under the Downtown Board. The funding of the position will be on the next meeting's agenda.

New Business

Mr. Chenette thanked Recreation and the Public Works Department for the ground work done at the Farmers Market/Band Stand.

Mr. Ross moved to waive the fees for the Annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting Dates

Centennial Planning Committee May 17, 2018. City Council Meeting May 21, 2018.

Executive Session, Pending Litigation/Contract, 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A) & (a)(1)(E)

Ms. Raboin moved that for the boards specific finding that premature general knowledge of the subjects of the executive session would clearly place the board and/or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

In open session, Mr. Chenette moved to approve the Easement Deed and the associated posting and publication of a Notice of Sale of Municipal real estate pursuant to 24 VSA Sec. 1061(a) for the City's conveyance of easements to Vermont Transco, LLC (VELCO) for two 25' wide transmission line easement expansion areas and to allow for the addition of telecommunications lines within the expanded, 150' wide easement over the City's property at 619 & 651 Coventry Street and to authorize Mayor Monette to execute the Easement Deed and any related closing documents if no petition is submitted in response to the notice of sale of Municipal Real Estate. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Charboneau moved to enter executive session for negotiating or securing real estate purchase or leasing options 1 VSA sec. 313(a)(2). Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

~~In open session Mr. Ross moved to approve the lease with the State of Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services for the green space northerly of the Hebard State Office building for a term of 4 months, beginning June 1, 2018. Fees for the use will be based on the Cities Field Use and Facilities rates. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.~~

Ms. Raboin moved to enter executive session for pending contract, 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A) & (a)(1)(E). seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

No action.

Adjournment

Mr. Chenette moved to adjourn at 9:48 PM. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Attested *James O. Johnson* This 21st Day of May 2018

W. L. Mal... Mayor