

## **Council Minutes**

**May 21, 2018**

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A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, May 21, 2018 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Denis Chenette, Council Members Kevin Charboneau, Julie Raboin and Daniel Ross, Tom Bernier, Jamie LeClair, Charles Elliott, Karen Geraghty members of the Press and Public.

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Ross moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2018. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

### **Comments by the Public**

Pam Ladds thanked the Fire department for rescuing a cat caught in the storm drain on the corner of Third St. and Pleasant St.

James Merriam commented on the Solid Waste and Composting plan.

The Opiate walk will be on the agenda for the June 4, 2018 meeting.

### **Downtown Designation Investment**

Karen Geraghty noted that the City has received its Downtown Designation for five years and that they are receiving applications for the position of Executive Director for the Newport City Downtown Development Board. The City has committed \$30,000 from the operating budget and Downtown Development Board is requesting \$30,000 from Wal-Mart funds to fund the position.

Ms. Raboin moved to authorize \$30,000 from the Wal-Mart Funds for the Executive Director's position. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

### **Appointments for Planning Commission and DRB**

The Planning Commission submitted their recommendations of persons to fill the vacancies on the Planning commission and Development Review Board. Mayor Monette stated that he would like to have the council interview the candidates for the Planning Commission.

Mr. Chenette moved to enter executive session to interview the candidates. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau.

Discussion: Ms. Raboin felt it was bad practice to ignore the Planning Commission recommendation. Mr. Ross felt the interviews would duplicate what has already been done. Mr. Chenette stated he had some questions about the process up to this point. Anne Chiarello stated that she thought the Planning Commission interviews were fair. Mayor Monette stated that he had received an E-mail stating that if the council didn't go along with the Planning commissions recommendation two members would quit, that's a threat. Mr. Elliott stated that according to state statue the council can interview and appoint anyone they choose.

Chenette and Charboneau voted in favor of going into executive session, Ross and Raboin against. Mayor Monette voted in favor, motion carried.

In open session, Mr. Ross moved to appoint Colleen Moore De-Ortiz to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to appoint Jay Gonyaw to the Development Review Board. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Authorization to Prepare Next Tax sale and Use City Attorney**

Mr. Chenette moved to authorize the next Tax Sale and use the City Attorney for the process. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Amend & Adopt Municipal Policies & Codes for VACCD Planning Grant Downtown**

Ms. Raboin moved to approve all the polices except the Fair Housing Policy which will be on the next agenda. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette moved to approve Form MP-1, Municipal Policies and Codes. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Chenette asked if the Electronic sign on the Causeway was permitted and met setbacks. Ms. Dolgin stated a permit had been issued and it did meet setbacks.

Mr. Chenette asked if continuous services were put out to bid. Ms. Dolgin stated no because we have no policy requiring it. We do have a policy to go out to bid on purchases over \$15,000 which are grant funded.

#### **Old Business**

Ms. Dolgin stated that the final meeting for the Waterfront Downtown Master Plan grant will be on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Career Center from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

**Next Meeting Dates**

Centennial Planning Committee May 31, 2018 @ 5:00 PM, City Council June 4, 2018 @ 6:30 PM.

**Executive Session Pending Contract 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A) & (a)(1)(E)**

Mr. Charboneau moved to enter executive session for pending contracts. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

No action.

**Executive Session Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)**

Mr. Chenette moved that for the board's specific finding that premature public knowledge of the subjects of the executive session would clearly place the board and/or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage and that we enter executive session to discuss the employment status of some employees. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

No action.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Chenette moved to adjourn at 9:10 PM. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Attested; James S. Johnson This 4<sup>th</sup> Day of June 2018

[Signature]  
Mayor