

## Council Minutes

February 4, 2019

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, February 4, 2019 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Denis Chenette, Julie Raboin, Kevin Charboneau, Daniel Ross, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Chief Seth DiSanto, Chief Jamie LeClair, Tom Bernier, Jess Booth, Jennifer Smith, Principal Elaine Collins, Patrick Martell, Dave Converse, Richard Tetreault, Bruce Martin, Annabelle Dally, 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 January 21, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried ~~unanimously~~. *Mr. Charboneau Abstained*

Mr. Ross moved to approve the minutes of January 29, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

### Comments by the Public

Jennifer Smith gave an update on the Gardner Park fund raising campaign.

Anne Chiarello stated that she felt the vote not to put the NEWSVT petitions on the ballot was null and void because the action was not warned. Mayor Monette stated the vote stands. The vote is clearly within the authority of the council and did not need to be warned.

### VT I 91 Access Road Rehabilitation Project, Planning for Summer 2019 Construction and Road Closure.

Bruce Martin VT AOT, Richard Tetreault and Annabelle Dally, WSP, Inc. gave a presentation on plans to take out the dip on the I 91 Access Road. The Access road will be closed from the Crawford Road to Western Ave. for at least six weeks between June and August 2019. There will be a public meeting two weeks before the project begins.

### Presentation from Newport City Elementary School Principle Elaine Collins (attached)

Principal Elaine Collins updated the council on the Newport City Schools proposed 2019-20 budget.

**Memphremagog Community Maritime Presentation**

Patrick Martell updated the council on Memphremagog Community Maritime's efforts to purchase the Northern Star and their plans for the boat if the purchase is successful.

**Coin Drop Requests (attached)**

Mr. Chenette moved to approve the 2019 Coin Drops as presented. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

The council tabled a liquor license request so Chief DiSanto has a chance to investigate it.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve a special Event request for Caledonia Spirits, Inc. to be held on February 23, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Chenette, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chenette brought up pot holes on RR Sq., Prouty Dr. and Rt 5 near Mr. O's, West Main St and Lake Road.

Mr. Chenette asked about the status of our salt supply. Mr. Bernier noted that he has used 85% of his salt budget and the dept. is over on its overtime.

**Old Business**

Mayor Monette thanked the Recreation Dept. for Saturday's Winterfest events.

**Next Meeting Date**

February 11, 2019

**Adjourn**

Mr. Chenette moved to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Attested:  This 11<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2019  
 Mayor

February 4, 2019

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Dear Taxpayers,

Every year, it is the responsibility of the school's administration and school board to work collaboratively to create a budget that provides for the needs of our students while being fiscally responsible. This year, this was an easier job than in some other years, with a decline in both our spending for next year and a proposed decrease in the overall tax rate.

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Our decrease in spending doesn't come from cutting programs to students, but the reasons are detailed below:

\*In general education, we had budgeted for five replacements for teachers who were retiring. Because we didn't know who we were going to be able to hire, we put in the cost of a more experienced teacher with a family health insurance plan so that if we hired someone with more experience who required health care, we would be prepared. For several positions, we hired teachers who had less experience and/or who required less health insurance coverage. Additionally, because we weren't able to find a full-time math coach, we decreased this position to half-time and were able to fill the job. Both of these things resulted in a \$196,040.64 savings in direct instruction salaries and health insurance benefits.

\*In the office of the principal, we were able to reconfigure the office staff, so there was the ability to cut a receptionist position for a savings of \$20,896.15.

\*In special programs, there is a reduction in \$79,754.52 for paraprofessional positions that were budgeted but no longer needed.

As a result, our overall proposed spending is down 2.81%. Additionally, our per pupil spending is *down* a little over one percent (1.06%). The estimated overall impact of NCES's budget on taxes is projected at this point to be a decrease of \$0.0374. Factoring in both the high school and junior high budgets, the tax rate is projected to still be a decrease of \$0.0302.

Our school system continues to work hard to build strong working relationships with community stakeholders and to keep the line of communication open with everyone involved, including taxpayers. We will be holding an informational meeting for taxpayers before the actual vote to make sure that people in the community are well informed and have an opportunity to have any questions about the budget answered satisfactorily. Our informational meeting will be on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the NCES library. If you are unable to attend the informational meeting, please feel free to contact me with your questions. I am happy to answer any of your questions or listen to any of your concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with Newport City's children. It is a privilege and honor.

Sincerely,

Elaine Collins, Principal

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## Proposed

### COIN DROPS - 2019

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Auxiliary	May 25th (Sat.)	8AM - 2PM
Newport Parks & Recreation Department	June 8th (Sat.)	8AM - 2PM
Newport Fire Department	July 6th (Sat.)	8AM - 2PM
American Legion Post #21	August 17th (Sat.)	8AM - 2PM
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Post #798	Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> (Sat.)	8AM - 2PM
Newport Recreation Committee	October 12th (Sat.)	8AM - 2PM
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)	November 9 <sup>th</sup> (Sat.)	8AM - 2PM

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