

Council Minutes

September 16, 2019

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held in the Gymnasium in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Julie Raboin, Council Members Melissa Pettersson, Kevin Charboneau and Dan Ross, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, LT. Travis Bingham, Chief Jamie LeClair, Thomas Bernier, Jessica Booth, Becky Therrien, Scott Jenness, members of the Press and Public.

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Pettersson moved to approve the minutes of September 9, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

None

Proposed ATV Trail system Presentation; Scott Jenness, President of Border Line Ridge Runners

Scott Jenness gave a presentation of the proposed ATV Trail System in and through the City of Newport.

NBRC Grant Cash Match Amendment.

The City applied for a \$500,000 NBRC Grant. They received \$250,000. The City needs to commit to a cash match of \$240,800. Ms. Dolgin recommended using \$240,800 of undesignated reserve funds for the match. Ms. Pettersson moved to commit \$240,800 of undesignated reserves for the NBRC cash match. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried. Ms. Pettersson, Mr. Ross and Mr. Charboneau voted in favor. Ms. Raboin who was opposed to taking half of the rainy-day funds for the cash match, voted no. Motion carried.

Capital Investment Plan

Ms. Dolgin submitted the proposed 5 Year Capital Investment Plan to the council for their review. The plan needs a public hearing, in no less than 30 days and no more than 120 days. The plan will be on a future agenda.

New Business

None

Old Business

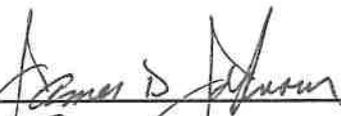
None

Next Meeting Date

October 7, 2019

Adjournment

Mr. Ross moved to adjourn at 7:51 PM. Seconded by Ms. Petterson, motion carried unanimously.

Attested  This 7th Day of October 2019

 Mayor

To: Newport City Council, James Johnson, City Clerk & Treasurer
From: Laura Dolgin, City Manager, and Tom Bernier, Director of Public Works
Date: September 9, 2019

Re: Grant Agreement Between Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) and City of Newport, Vt.

The City of Newport has been awarded a \$250,000.00 grant from the NBRC for the purposes of intersection & infrastructure improvements at Gardner Park/Waterfront Plaza on what is known as The Causeway. Out of 60 competitive applications, this grant application was one of only 14 chosen for funding which is an indication of state recognition: ~~This project includes modernized traffic lights and a pedestrian friendly intersection to~~ Gardner Park and the Waterfront Mall. This project complements the grants already received for the Gardner Park playground and splash pad renovations and the soon to be installed VOREC bike path at Prouty Beach.

The original NBRC grant request was for \$500,000 for a total project cost of \$613,500.00. We are thrilled to receive \$250,000.00 although it is obvious that additional match will now be required. This grant is too substantial to pass up and the intersection is in dire need of improvements. We do not recommend scaling the project back. The original application anticipated a cash match of \$67,700 with an in-kind match of \$55,000.00 for a total of \$122,700.00.

The new formula will require an anticipated match of \$240,800.00 (41%). This is assuming the actual costs associated with in-kind labor and equipment does not change. If we are able to increase the in-kind match, then the monetary contribution will be less. We will know more about the value of in-kind services as we go through the engineering process. We optimistically anticipate that the engineering will reveal that we will be able to do quite a bit of the work in house. There is always the chance that the total cost of the project could increase, although we are moving with great caution.

I considered the following in making a recommendation for an additional cash match of \$240,800.00:

The period of performance of this project begins October 1, 2019 until September 30, 2022. We will receive a "notice to proceed" once the additional funds are committed to complete the project as presented in the application. The City Council has available \$453,748.97 in the unassigned fund balance. These funds are available for 'rainy day' or 'grant match' as presented to the Council during the budget process and unanimously voted at the November 5, 2018 council meeting.

Additionally, the ~~Coventry St.~~ Sinking Fund has a balance of \$87,056.00, and has been untouched for several years. There is currently ~~no~~ short or mid-range plan to make changes to Coventry Street's infrastructure, although there was many years ago. The Council has authority to vote to reassign the Coventry St. Sinking Fund to Street Reconstruction, which would allow flexibility in utilizing these funds as the current title of the funds restricts our ability to use the balance for these major infrastructure improvements. The project will take 3 years to complete. It is likely we will budget for this during each fiscal year. Having the Coventry St. Sinking Fund transitioned to Street Reconstruction will allow us some flexibility for unknown costs factors.

Our gap is anticipated to be \$240,800.00. I recommend the council assign \$240,800.00 of the unassigned to Street Reconstruction. I further recommend that council reassign the Coventry St. Sinking Fund in the amount of \$87,056.00 to Street Reconstruction.

Thank you.