

Council Minutes

January 20, 2020

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City council was held on Monday, January 20, 2020 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Julie Raboin, council members Kevin Charboneau, Melissa Pettersson and Daniel Ross, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Becky Therrien, PW Director Tom Bernier, John Harlamert, James LeClair Jr., Newport Elementary Principal Elaine Collins, John Castle, Charles Elliott, members of the Fire Department, Press and Public.

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

Mayor Monette presented Chief LeClair with a plaque and picture signed by the members of the Fire Dept. and thanked him for his 30+ years of service to the City. Mayor Monette wished him luck on his new adventure in Alabama.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Raboin moved to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

Several firemen commented on the departure of Chief LeClair.

Tom Evans commented on the non-union wages.

Anne Chiarello commented on MLK Day.

Laurie Grimm commented on ATV's.

Executive Session for Personnel

Ms. Raboin moved to enter executive session for personnel. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin moved to accept the resignation of Fire Chief Jamie LeClair. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session for Fire Chief Interviews, 1VSA 313 (a)(3)

Mr. Charboneau moved to enter executive session for Fire Chief interviews. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

In open session Ms. Raboin moved to appoint John Harlamert, Fire Chief. Second by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried unanimously.

Newport City Elementary Budget

Principal Elaine Collins gave a presentation on the proposed Newport City School budget. The School Board will be meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 to finalize the 2020-21 budget.

E911 Update

Charles Elliott updated the council on the E911 changes for Paddock Lane, Camp Elizabeth Way and Hayes Road.

Ms. Pettersson moved to approve the E911 changes. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Holiday Discussion

A discussion was held on the suggestion to add MLK Day to the city's holidays. Some felt the holiday should be added. Others felt it should be brought to the attention of the unions and still others felt a floating holiday could be used on MLK Day if an employee wanted to. No action was taken on the issue.

New Business

The council approved a liquor license application from Azur's Inc.

Mr. Johnson noted that loan documents were being drawn up to purchase a new Police vehicle to replace the one totaled last summer. The insurance was enough to pay off the loan and make the down payment on the new vehicle.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting Date

February 3, 2020

Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 9:55 PM. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried unanimously

Attested  This 3rd Day of February 2020



Mayor

City Manager..... (802) 334-5136
City Clerk / Treasurer..... 334-2112
Public Works..... 334-2124
Zoning Adm. / Assessor..... 334-6992
Recreation / Parks..... 334-6345
Fax..... 334-5632



City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, Vermont 05855
www.newportvermont.org

January 16, 2020

Postmaster
Newport Post Office
59 Coventry Road
Newport, VT 05855

Dear Postmaster,

Re: Road name changes and 911 renumbering

Due to road changes over time, two loop roads in the city became blocked in the middle preventing access to all residence on the roads from either end. This has caused confusion and delays for emergency responders. For this reason, we have changed names for two small sections of roads. A description of 911 number changes are below and a map of each change is attached.

Camp Elizabeth Way:

As shown on the map Hayes Road is a short spur road off from Camp Elizabeth Way. Hayes will now continue at the junction with Camp Elizabeth Way to the Junction with Bigelow Bluff Road. Camp Elizabeth Way will now terminate at the Hayes Road junction.

The two properties now adjacent to Hayes Road will be given new 911 numbers for Hayes Road.

The following properties will be renumbered;

59 Camp Elizabeth Way will change to 25 Hayes Road,

83 Camp Elizabeth Way will change to 27 Hayes Road,

78 Camp Elizabeth Way will be deleted, this building was torn down and not replaced.

Note: The house at 27 Hayes Road (83 Camp Elizabeth Way) and the garage at 25 Hayes Road (59 Camp Elizabeth Way) share a common driveway.

All other properties on Camp Elizabeth Way will retain their existing 911 addresses.

Paddock Lane:

Paddock Lane originated as a loop from Bluff Road (west end) to Racetrack road on its eastern end. The section of road in the middle is swampy and was rarely used. It now has grown up to trees, etc. and has become unusable. To resolve the confusion of two dead end streets with one name, we are renaming the eastern end of the road "Lakeside Lane". The 911 address changes are listed below and depicted on the attached map.

The following properties will be renumbered.

195 Paddock Lane becomes 12 Lakeside Lane,

166 Paddock Lane becomes 29 Lakeside Lane",

167 Paddock Lane becomes 30 Lakeside Lane,

159 Paddock Lane becomes 42 Lakeside Lane.

153 Paddock Lane becomes 56 Lakeside Lane.

All the affected properties are vacation homes. All the owners live out of state which is where their home and business addresses are. For this reason, I do not believe these changes will have any significant impact on the post office daily operations.

If you have any questions or problems, please give me a call.

Sincerely,



Charles Elliott, Zoning Admin. and 911 Numbering Coordinator
(802) 334-6992



MLK Day

7 messages

Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>

Tue, Jan 7, 2020 at 11:56 AM

To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>, Paul Monette <paul.monette@newportvermont.org>

~~Laura and Paul~~

MLK Day is a federal holiday recognized by VT on 1-1-2001. With that said it is also recognized as a Day of Service, <https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community/mlkdaygov/about-mlk-day-service>

On every other Holiday, such as July 4th, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, etc. there are activities (for some they can even be Rituals) for the community to participate in and give meaning to the Holiday. It could be fireworks, a parade or a day set aside as a Nation to give thanks. Just mentioning a particular Holiday evokes memories and expectations of the day. This gives meaning to the day by our actions.

MLK Day is a celebration of a remarkable individual who changed a Nation. To have a day off for the sake of having a day off does nothing to honor MLK's legacy and in fact belittles his life and all that he accomplished. Sitting at home on the couch, eating chips and watching TV does nothing to carry on his legacy. MLK gave his life to make a positive change in our Nation, and how we view the world. MLK is remembered as an activist, not a couch potato. To truly honor his legacy we must not only continue his struggle for equality and community through our own actions, by doing what we can to make positive changes.

From the above website:

"This day of service helps to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers, address social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community".

Why Serve on MLK Day?

Dr. King recognized the power of service. He famously said, "Everyone can be great because everybody can serve." Observing the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday through service is a way to begin each year with a commitment to making your community a better place. Your service honors Dr. King's life and teachings and helps meet community challenges. Service also brings people together of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. The MLK Day of Service encourages all types of service, particularly projects that have a lasting impact and connect participants to ongoing service. The most successful projects connect to the life and teaching of Dr. King, meet a pressing community need, and include time to reflect on his teachings..

Yes, banks, the Post Office, etc. are closed. Merely not working does nothing if there are not actions to connect the day to the person. Unfortunately I don't have a list of events occurring in Newport, during MLK Day, as there must surely be some for our concerned residents to mention this day and bring it to our attention. Even if there was, alas I fear I could not fully participate due to my physical limitations. Yet, 'everybody can be great because they can serve'. For me I find that my greatest service can be my participation in our City Government by attending the Council Meeting on MLK Day. I'm sure that the other members of our Council feel the same way, that serving our community and ensuring fair and equitable treatment to all the citizens to the best of our ability, truly honors MLK's legacy. So, yes we have a Council Meeting on MLK Day, not for personal glory, wealth or power, but to serve our residents as duly elected representatives addressing the needs of our community.

I'll conclude this ramble/rant with a person we can all identify with, Micheline Auger. Every day, rain or shine, she would be on Main Street making it better. She did this without pay or to seek personal glory. Truly, she served her community everyday by doing what she could to change it for the better. Her tireless, selfless work ethic shames us all. But I think we can emulate her, on this day of service, MLK day, by serving our Community, in the roles we accepted, as public servants holding a Council Meeting.

The question is: How are others fulfilling MLK's legacy? A day off for the sake of doing nothing is a slap in the face to MLK and his legacy..