Council Minutes

March 7, 2022

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, March 7, 2022, in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Melissa Pettersson, council members Kevin Charboneau, Chris Vachon and John Wilson, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, City Manager Laura Dolgin, Tom Bernier, John Harlamert, Scott St. Onge, Members of the Press and Public.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public

Pam Ladds asked about the process for the awarding of the grants for downtown businesses. Ms. Dolgin will see if someone from the state could come and explain the process.

Jay Walsh commented on the landfill.

Election of City Council President

Ms. Pettersson moved to nominate John Wilson, Council President. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Annual Update of Rules of Procedure

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the Rules of Procedure. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

City Government Appointments

Mr. Wilson moved to appoint Stitzel, Page and Fletcher, City attorney. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Ms. Pettersson moved to appoint Denis Chenette, Jean Condon, and John Ward Sr. to the Cemetery commission. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Mr. Charboneau moved to appoint Jennifer Smith, Shari-Lee Ryan, Sean Pilkner, Nick Whitehouse, and Matt Kiley to the Recreation Committee. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to appoint Denis Chenette to the Planning Commission/Historic Preservation. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to appoint William Round and Ronald Chaffee to the Harbor Commission. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried.

Ms. Pettersson moved to appoint Jay Gonyaw to the Development Review Board. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Mr. Wilson moved to appoint John Harlamert, Health Officer. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried.

Ms. Pettersson moved to appoint Robert Gosselin, Tree Warden. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Mr. Wilson moved to appoint Paul Monette and Laura Dolgin, Representatives to NVDA. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to appoint Paul Monette, representative to NVEDD. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Mr. Charboneau moved to appoint George Cudd, Building Safety Officer. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried.

Mr. Vachon moved to appoint John Harlamert, E911 Coordinator. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Purple Heart Community Proclamation

VFW Commander Scott St. Onge requested that the City sign a proclamation designating Newport as a Purple Heart Community. Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the proclamation designating August 7th as Purple Heart Day. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

Recycling Center

Mr. Bernier updated the council on the Recycling Center.

New Business

The council signed 2022 liquor licenses.

Mayor Monette noted he was not pleased that the City Manager and none of the Dept. Heads attended the Annual meeting.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting Date

March 21, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Executive Session

Mr. Wilson moved to enter executive session to discuss the evaluation of a public officer or employee

1 VSA 313(3)(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried.

No action.

Adjournment

Mr. Vachon moved to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried.

Attested _____ this 21st day of March 2022

_____ Mayor

NEWPORT CITY RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

A. PURPOSE.

The City Council of Newport City is required by law to conduct its meetings in accordance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law. 1 V.S.A. §§ 310-314. Meetings of the City Council of Newport City must be open to the public at all times, except as provided in 1 V.S.A. § 313.

B. APPLICATION.

This policy setting forth rules of procedure shall apply to the City Council of Newport City, which is referred to below as "the body." These rules shall apply to all regular, special, and emergency meetings of the body.

C. ORGANIZATION.

1. The body shall annually elect a president. The mayor of the body or, in the mayor's absence, the president shall preside over all meetings. If both the mayor and the president are absent, a member selected by the body shall act as chair for that meeting.

2. The mayor shall preserve order in the meeting and shall regulate its proceedings by applying these rules and making determinations about all questions of order or procedure.

3. A majority of the members of the body shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum of the members of the body is not present at a meeting, no meeting shall take place.

4. No single member of the body shall have authority to represent or act on behalf of the body unless, by majority vote, the body has delegated such authority for a specific matter at a duly-noticed meeting and such delegation is recorded in the meeting minutes.

5. Motions made by members of the body do require a second. A motion will only pass if it receives the votes of a majority of the total membership of the body.

6. There is no limit to the number of times a member of the body may speak to a question. A member may speak or make a motion only after being recognized by the mayor. Motions to close or limit debate will be entertained.

7. Any member of the body may request a roll call vote. Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312(a)(2), when one or more members attend a meeting electronically, a roll call vote is required for votes that are not unanimous.

8. Meetings may be recessed to a time and place certain.

9. These rules may be amended by majority vote of the body, and must be re-adopted annually.

D. AGENDAS.

1. Each regular and special meeting of the body shall have an agenda. Those who wish to be added to the meeting agenda shall contact the City Manager to request inclusion on the agenda at least 3 days prior. The mayor shall determine the final content of the agenda.

2. At least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting, and at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting, a meeting agenda shall be posted in or near the municipal office and at the following designated public places in the municipality: Newport City Municipal Building, Goodrich Memorial Library and the U.S. Post Office. At least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting, and at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting, a meeting agenda shall be posted on http://newportvermont.org/website/. The agenda must also be made available to any person who requests such agenda prior to the meeting.

3. All business shall be conducted in the same order as it appears on the noticed agenda, except that any addition to or deletion from the noticed agenda must be made as the first act of business at the meeting. No additions to or deletions from the agenda shall be considered once the first act of business at the meeting has commenced. Any other adjustment to the noticed agenda, for example, changing the order of business, postponing or tabling actions, may be made by majority vote of the body.

E. MEETINGS.

1. Regular meetings shall take place on the first and third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, unless otherwise warned.

2. Special meetings shall be publicly announced at least 24 hours in advance by giving notice to all members of the body unless previously waived; posting in the municipal clerk's office and at the following designated places in the municipality Newport City Municipal Building, Goodrich Memorial Library, the U.S. Post Office, posted on http://newportvermont.org/website/ and to any person who has requested notice of such meetings.

3. Emergency meetings may be held without public announcement, without posting of notices, and without 24-hour notice to members, provided some public notice thereof is given as soon as possible before any such meeting. Emergency meetings may be held only when necessary to respond to an unforeseen occurrence or condition requiring immediate attention by the public body.

4. A member of the body may attend a regular, special, or emergency meeting by electronic or other means without being physically present at a designated meeting location, so long as the member identifies him or herself when the meeting is convened, and is able to hear and be heard throughout the meeting. Whenever one or more members attend electronically, voting that is not unanimous must be done by roll call. If a quorum or more of the body attend a meeting (regular, special, or emergency) without being physically present at a designated meeting location, the agenda for the meeting shall designate at least one physical location where a member of the public can attend and participate in the meeting. At least one member of the body, or at least one staff or designee of the body, shall be physically present at each designated meeting location.

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

1. All meetings of the body are meetings in the public, not of the public. Members of the public shall be afforded reasonable opportunity to express opinions about matters considered by the body during public comment, so long as order is maintained according to these rules.

2. At the beginning of each agenda, but before any action is taken by the public body, there may be as much as 15 minutes afforded for open public comment. By majority vote, the body may increase the time for open public comment.

3. Comment by the public or members of the body must be addressed to the chair or to the body as a whole, and not to any individual member of the body or public.

4. Members of the public must be acknowledged by the mayor before speaking.

5. If a member of the public has already spoken on a topic, he or she may not be recognized again until others have first been given the opportunity to comment.

6. Order and decorum shall be observed by all persons present at the meeting. Neither members of the body, nor the members of the public, shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the meeting or interrupt or disturb any member while speaking. Members of the body and members of the public are prohibited from making personal, impertinent, threatening, or profane remarks.

7. Members of the body and members of the public shall obey the orders of the mayor or other presiding member. The mayor should adhere to the following process to restore order and decorum of a meeting, but may bypass any or all steps when he or she determines in his or her sole discretion that deviation from the process is warranted:

   a. Call the meeting to order and remind the members of the applicable rules of procedure.

   b. Declare a recess or table the issue.

   c. Adjourn the meeting until a time and date certain.

   d. Order law enforcement to remove disorderly person(s) from the meeting.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2022:

Paul Monette, Mayor

John A Wilson

Council President

Military Order
Of the
Purple Heart

CITY OF NEWPORT, VERMONT
PROCLAMATION
PURPLE HEART COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the people of the City of Newport, Vermont have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the citizens of our community who have selflessly served in the Armed Forces that has been vital in maintaining the freedom and the way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, citizens of our community have been killed in action while serving in the Armed Forces and have been posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for their ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, citizens of our community have been awarded the Purple Heart for their bodily sacrifice of being wounded by the hand of the enemy while engaged in combat; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is the oldest American military decoration and was created as The Badge of Military Merit, made of purple cloth in the shape of a heart with the word "Merit" sewn upon it, on August 7, 1782 in Newburgh, New York by General George Washington, then reestablished as the Purple Heart on February 22nd, 1932 by General Douglas MacArthur; and

WHEREAS, the heritage it represents is sacred to those who know the price paid to wear the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, August 7th is nationally recognized as Purple Heart Day; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, We the City of Newport Elected Officials hereby proclaim the City of Newport, Vermont a Purple Heart Community, honoring the service and sacrifice of those from our community who were awarded the Purple Heart while serving in our Nations wars; and

ALSO, BE IT PROCLAIMED, That the City of Newport, Vermont will recognize August 7th annually as Purple Heart Day, and urge our citizens and organizations to display the American Flag as well as other public expressions of recognition and appreciation of our Purple Heart recipients.

Paul L. Monette

Paul L. Monette, Mayor